

# SCIENCE

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## DEDICATION OF THE NORMAN BRIDGE LABORATORY OF PHYSICS OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### PRESENTATION BY NORMAN BRIDGE

THIS is one of a series of pleasant occasions that have attended the growth and metamorphosis of this school for nearly a third of a century.

Each one has marked some accession of value in its progress from a small affair with varied aims and moderate ambitions, to a concentration of effort on the most ambitious plans for the selection and excellence of the few. Sometimes the acquisition has been a material one, as of buildings, grounds and tools; sometimes it has been spiritual and intellectual. To-day we welcome both forms.

The changes in the institution have come through a process of elimination of the casual and easy—designed for the many; and of the engrafting upon it of the more difficult, the more costly—and ultimately the more potent, for the few who can measure up to its requirements.

And the most telling addition of all has been the deliberate movement toward systematic research—otherwise the search for additions to the knowledge of the world.

We are gathered here to take note of the latest material addition to the equipment, as well as the latest spiritual and intellectual accession. This laboratory is undoubtedly a long step toward an ideal outfit for teaching, and for the research that is in the greatest demand at this time. But no man can guess what new facilities will be needed within a few years, for novel lines of research not now even thought of.

The growth of knowledge comes step by step; sometimes the steps are short, frequent, and strictly progressive; at other times they