

SCIENCE

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THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

ADDRESS OF WELCOME¹

By Dr. KARL T. COMPTON

PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

It is no common honor and privilege which I have this morning in welcoming the most distinguished scientific body of America to Cambridge as the guests of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Pleasant and stimulating as these meetings are, and appropriate as is this old New England center of intellectual progress for meetings of this type, it is natural that the academy can meet in the Boston region only at intervals of a number of years; and when it does meet in this region, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will have to take its turn with its sister institution up the river in the privilege of acting as host. While on this particular occasion you have done us the honor of accepting our invitation, I wish to emphasize the fact that in a very real way Harvard University is also your host, since several Harvard members of the academy have cooperated as members of our local committee and are partici-

pating in the entertainment of our guests. I wish, therefore, to speak not only for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but also for the entire academy group in this region, in welcoming you to these meetings.

The mention of the cooperation of our Harvard colleagues on this occasion leads me to say a few words about an important aspect of the relations between our two institutions. Each has a position of eminence in its own field. At various points these fields of interest overlap. I do not believe that many people outside of these institutions realize the extent to which real cooperation between them is an accomplished fact, whereby graduate students and staff in the overlapping fields may take advantage of the special opportunities and facilities in both institutions. While each institution tries to do its own work in the most effective possible way, our ideal is to offer to the more advanced students the combined advantages of both institutions in so far as this is possible by cooperation.

¹ Address at the opening session, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, November 20, 1933.

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