

SCIENCE

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THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY¹

INSTALLATION ADDRESS

By Dr. SAMUEL W. STRATTON

RETIRING PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN ELECT OF THE CORPORATION

THE administration of the affairs of a large educational institution has become in many respects as great a problem as that of industry. The interests of the former are generally more diversified, its organization more complex and its administration more difficult, from many points of view.

Academic freedom, which generally refers to one's right to an opinion in his own field and to teach accordingly, is often interpreted to cover a much wider range of subjects, hence we do not always find the team work in the faculty that is found in industry or in the football team. In an institution like this, the coordination of the work between departments having many common interests is one of the most important phases of administration.

Notwithstanding the many interests common to all the scientific and technical departments, there is necessarily a great diversity between them in the later years of the courses and in graduate work.

At the institute there are twenty or more undergraduate courses and options leading to degrees. In all these graduate work is going on and growing rapidly. The inter-departmental relations as to this advanced work involve administrative problems of great importance.

Every department depends upon others for instruction in some of the subjects included in its own curricula. Few research projects are taken up that do not involve cooperation as to personnel and equipment between different departments. Conditions set up for convenience in departmental organizations are not always those most favorable to investigational

¹ Addresses given at Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 6, 1930.



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(cf.—Osborne & Harris, Jr. Am. Chem. Soc., 25-IV, 346)

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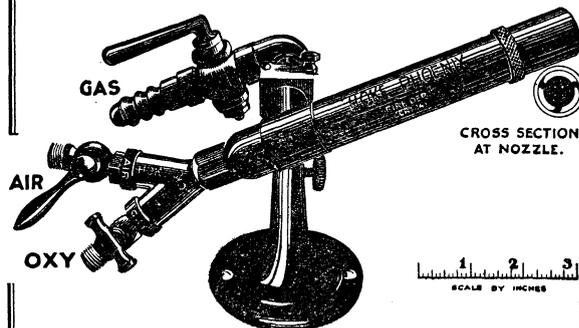
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