On our cover this month—a very special pine cone, produced in Caltech’s Earhart Plant Research Laboratory. Usually it takes the Southern pine tree from 10 to 15 years to produce cones. On page 28 you’ll find out how Caltech and U.S. Forest Service researchers brought the time down to 2 years—and what this could mean to the future of forestry.

The pine cone on the cover is now preserved in lucite and will be presented this month to the U.S. Forest Service, to mark the beginning of a new era in scientific forestry.

Simon Ramo’s article on page 17, “A New Technique of Education,” will give you a rough idea of what our educational system will be like—or could be like—in a few more years. The article has been adapted from a talk given last spring before the annual convention of the California Business Education Association.

Dr. Ramo, executive vice president of the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation in Los Angeles, got his BS at Caltech in 1933, and his PhD in 1936. He is now a research associate in electrical engineering here.

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