The Month at Caltech

Leaders of America

Dr. Carl H. Rogers, professor of psychology and psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin, was on the campus from April 18-20 as the second visitor in this year’s Leaders of America Program, sponsored by the Caltech YMCA.

Dr. Rogers is the originator of a unique type of psychiatric treatment called client-centered therapy, a treatment built on two central ideas: 1) Every individual has the capacity to understand what factors in his life are causing him unhappiness, and the capacity to reorganize himself so as to overcome these disturbing elements. 2) The person under treatment can recognize his ability to use these powers if the therapist can establish a warm relationship, one that is accepting and understanding.

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Client-centered therapy does not try to diagnose the client's difficulties or to evaluate his personality, nor does it attempt to suggest a particular type of treatment. Instead, the client, under the protection of therapy, begins to reorganize his own life structure in relation to reality, and thus free himself.

Dr. Rogers started at the University of Wisconsin as an agriculture major but ended up by getting a BA in history in 1924. He received his PhD in psychology in 1931 from Columbia University's Teachers College. For the next 12 years he worked with juvenile delinquents, and his distinctive method of treatment evolved from this work. Dr. Rogers has been at the University of Wisconsin since 1957.

Retirement Meeting

Caltech's Industrial Relations Center held a day-long conference on March 22 on "Industry's Interest in the Older Worker and the Retired Employee." More than 200 personnel officials of southern California industries, and authorities in the personnel field attended the conference. James T. O'Connell, Under Secretary of Labor, in his speech on "The Concern of Government and Business with Problems of Older Persons," stressed the fact that freedom of choice, both for the worker and for the employer, should prevail in all questions of hiring and retiring older workers.

Louis Kuplan, executive secretary of the State Citizens' Advisory Committee on Aging, recommended in another talk that counseling on retirement should being at least 15 years before the worker retires.

Michael T. Wermel, director of research of Caltech's Benefits and Insurance Research Center, acted as chairman of the meeting, assisted by Professor Robert D. Gray, director of Caltech's Industrial Relations Section.

Symposium on Missiles

A two-day meeting at Caltech on March 28 and 29 brought astronomers, physicists and military men to the campus for a symposium on quantitative spectroscopy and selected military applications. Most of the discussions were concerned with basic problems in detecting the launching and flight of missiles. The symposium was sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Institute for Defense Analysis, the Air Force Cambridge Research Center, and the California Institute of Technology.

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