The Month at Caltech

New Trustees

William Clayton, president of the Clayton Manufacturing Company, and Henry Dreyfuss, industrial designer, were elected to the Institute's Board of Trustees this month.

Mr. Clayton was born in Kentucky in 1905. He was in the cotton business until 1929, when he moved to California and founded the Los Angeles company he now heads. He has been a member of the California Institute Associates since 1948 and served as president of the organization from 1959 to 1962. He is a director of the Childrens Hospital in Los Angeles, and a member of the California Club and the Valley Hunt Club.

Mr. Dreyfuss was born in New York City in 1904. He was a successful theatrical designer until 1929, when he opened his first industrial design office. His firm now operates in both Los Angeles and New York. He serves as an associate in industrial design on the Caltech faculty and is also a visiting professor in fine arts at UCLA. He is a member of the board of directors of the Ford Foundation's Educational Facilities Laboratories, and serves as chairman of the board of design of the Los Angeles Music Center. He has been a member of the California Institute Associates since 1948.

Gordon A. Alles

Gordon A. Alles, internationally known chemist and pharmacologist who did much research on the isolation and properties of insulin for the treatment of diabetics, died on January 21 of diabetes. Dr. Alles, who was apparently unaware of his illness, collapsed in a diabetic coma.

Gordon Alles received his BS (1922), MS (1924), and PhD (1926) degrees from Caltech. Since 1931 he had been a lecturer in pharmacology at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco, and since 1951 he had been Professor in Residence of pharmacology at
From 1934 to 1951 he was a consultant for the Smith, Kline & French Laboratories. He was owner of the Alles Chemical Research Laboratories in Pasadena, and had been a Caltech research associate since 1939. In 1958 he gave Caltech a gift of $350,000 which financed, in large part, the five-story Gordon A. Alles Laboratory for Molecular Biology.

Dr. Alles was primarily interested in natural and synthetic drug chemicals and the relationship between their molecular structures and their biological actions. In 1928 he discovered the physiological properties of benzedrine and he contributed to its development as a drug. This drug and dexedrine, which was developed from the discovery, have had worldwide medical use as general brain stimulants.

Dr. Alles had just returned from Tahiti, where he was investigating the possibilities of developing tranquilizers from alkaloids in a native drink called kava.

New Officers

Caltech's Board of Trustees has elected Robert T. Baker as comptroller and assistant secretary of the Institute and Ivan F. Betts as assistant to the vice president for business affairs.

Mr. Baker has been assistant comptroller since 1960. In his new appointment, he succeeds Robert B. Gilmore, who was recently made vice president for business affairs. Mr. Baker has been at Caltech since 1952. He is a graduate of UCLA and a native of Syracuse, N. Y.

Mr. Betts has been at Caltech since 1959 and has served as contract administrator for the past three years. He is a graduate of LaVerne College and began his career at Price Waterhouse and Company. Before coming to Caltech he was studio controller for Universal Pictures.

Industrial Relations Center

Caltech's Industrial Relations Center, which has been housed in the basement of Culbertson Hall since 1941, is now located at 383 South Hill Avenue. The new Center has over 8,000 square feet of floor area on almost an acre of ground, and a private parking space for 41 cars. There are three air-conditioned conference rooms on the second floor, a three-room library on the main floor which can accommodate the huge collection of publications and materials accumulated by the Center, a lobby, several offices, and an annex.

In the new location, meetings and conferences can be scheduled at any time during the year. The first series of evening meetings in the new Center began on January 9 with 127 registrants from 43 companies.