

# THE MONTH AT CALTECH

## James R. Page Retires

JAMES R. PAGE, retiring after 11 years as chairman of Caltech's Board of Trustees, was honored at a dinner given by the Trustees and Associates of the Institute at the California Club in Los Angeles last month.

Mr. Page was one of the 100 original members of the California Institute Associates when they organized in 1926. He was elected their president in 1931.

"It was the Associates," said President DuBridge, in his speech at Mr. Page's retirement dinner, "whose moral and financial support was the decisive element in converting a small engineering college into the great center of pure and applied science that we know today."

Mr. Page retired officially on November 1, and was succeeded by Albert Ruddock. (*E&S*, November 1954). He will continue to serve on the Board as chairman of the finance committee.

Mr. Page became a Trustee of the Institute in 1931, and in 1943 he succeeded the late Allan C. Balch as chairman of the Board.

"Since then," said Dr. DuBridge, "he has occupied the chair with grace, with good humor, with friendliness, with firmness or with any other mood which seemed to him appropriate for each particular occasion."

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. Page came to California in his youth and over a period of sixty years

has been active in the business, cultural, civic and religious affairs of the Los Angeles community.

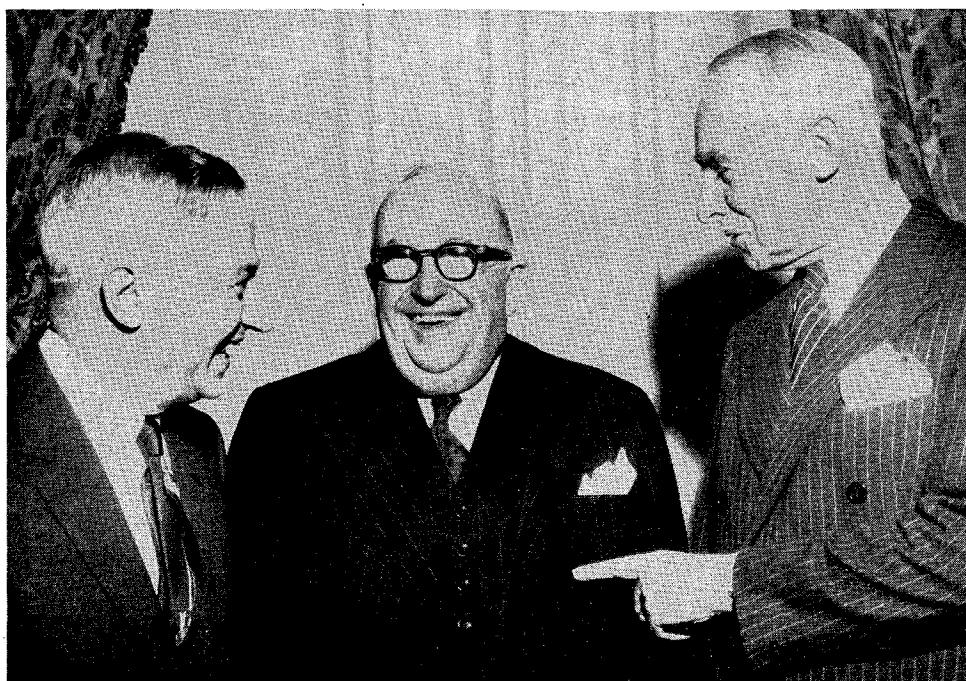
He is currently a director of the I. N. Van Nuys Building Company, the Gladding McBean Company, the Southern California Edison Company, the First Safe Deposit Company and the Union Oil Company of California. He is also a trustee and the treasurer of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery.

For five years he was president of the California Bank. He served four terms as president of the All-Year Club of Southern California. From 1923 to 1929 he was secretary of the Greater Los Angeles Harbor Committee of 200, which employed the engineers and experts who designed the Los Angeles harbor as it is today.

Mr. Page has been a leading figure in the Community Chest for more than 20 years and was its president for four years. An active churchman, he served as a vestryman and warden in the Episcopal Church for more than 30 years. He is a trustee of the Good Samaritan Hospital, the Barlow Sanatorium and the Santa Barbara School in Carpinteria.

Reviewing Mr. Page's career, William C. McDuffie of the Caltech Board of Trustees, said: "This impressive list of activities was possible only because Jim was doing the things he really liked best to do. He did not play golf, own a boat, horses or a country home. His one big hobby has been his work and this community has greatly profited thereby."

*President DuBridge, James R. Page, and William C. McDuffie, member of the Caltech Board of Trustees, at the testimonial dinner honoring Mr. Page on his retirement as chairman of the Board of Trustees.*



## THE MONTH . . . CONTINUED

### Honors from France

DR. ALFRED STERN, Associate Professor of Languages and Philosophy at Caltech, received the insignia of a Knight of the Legion of Honor, one of France's highest awards, at a ceremony on the Caltech campus last month.

The Legion of Honor was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 for recognition of distinguished civil and military service. By recent decree of the President of France, Dr. Stern was proclaimed a Knight of the order for his outstanding scholarly contributions to French culture and the valuable service he rendered the cause of France during World War II.

Lt. Col. Hubert de Pazzis, chief of staff for General De Castries at Dien Bien Phu, presented Dr. Stern the insignia of the order, a star with five two-fold rays surmounted by an oak and laurel crown and bearing the inscription, *Honneur et Patrie*.

Dr. Stern has published a number of books and articles in French, English, Spanish and German, many of which deal with French philosophy and literature. Among his best-known works are *The Philosophy of Values*, *The Philosophy of Laughter and Tears*, and his latest book, *Sartre—His Philosophy and Psychoanalysis*. Dr. Stern also wrote the basic article on French science and philosophy for the current edition of the *Encyclopedia Americana*. He has lectured frequently in this country in French philosophy and literature.

Dr. Stern came to Caltech in 1947. In addition to teaching here, he also lectures at the University of Southern California. He came to the United States from Mexico City, to which he had escaped when France was

overrun by the Nazis in World War II. At that time he was a volunteer in the French Infantry. Soon after arriving in Mexico City in 1942 he became active in the Comité National Francaise, headed by General Charles de Gaulle. As a writer for this committee, Dr. Stern published in the next three years a book and hundreds of articles in support of the cause of Free France.

Dr. Stern has taught at the University of Paris, the New University of Brussels, the National University of Mexico, the French College in Mexico City and the French University in New York. He holds a PhD from the University of Vienna. He is a contributor to many scholarly journals in the United States, France and Latin America. In France he holds the "Academic Palms" and the title, "Officer of the Academy."

"What I have done for France," said Dr. Stern, after receiving his award, "is much less than what she has done for me. I owe France an immense enrichment of my life in the realms of intellectual, moral and artistic values.

"When, in 1933, still five years before the annexation, I had to leave my native Austria because of her growing totalitarian intolerance which prevented me from continuing my academic career, France opened for me the doors of her first university, the Sorbonne. The years I had the privilege of teaching philosophy there belong to the proudest and happiest of my life. Thus, I had every reason to love France, and what is done from love is always beyond merit. In recognizing as a merit what was only the result of the impulses of my heart, France gives a new proof of her generosity."

Dr. Alfred Stern receives the insignia of a Knight of the Legion of Honor, one of France's highest awards, from Lt. Col. Hubert de Pazzis, right, chief of staff for General DeCastries at Dien Bien Phu.

