The Month at Caltech

Radhakrishnan

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, vice president of India, came to the Caltech campus on April 2 for a three-day visit. As the third visitor in the Caltech YMCA's Leaders program, Dr. Radhakrishnan spent most of his time in informal meetings with students, but he also gave formal talks on "Science and Religion," on "India's Foreign Policy," and on "Indian Philosophy and Religion."

One of India's leading statesmen, Dr. Radhakrishnan is also known as one of India's foremost modern philosophers. From 1909 to 1948 he held various academic posts in India, and served as guest lecturer at such universities as Oxford, Chicago, Yale, Harvard, Michigan and Cornell. He was knighted by George V in 1931 and in 1939 he was the first Indian to be elected to Fellowship in the British Academy. He holds honorary doctorates from the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia, Rome, London and McGill.

In 1946 Dr. Radhakrishnan was the leader of the Indian delegation to the newly-formed UNESCO. He became vice chairman of the organization in 1948, and chairman in 1949. In that same year he was appointed India's first ambassador to the Soviet Union. He resigned the position in 1952 to become the Congress Party candidate for vice president of India.

Lauritsen's Award

Charles C. Lauritsen, professor of physics, has received the second annual Captain Robert Dexter Conrad Award, established by the Office of Naval Research. The award is named for the late Captain Conrad, first head of the ONR's planning division, and the primary architect of the Navy's basic research program. It is given for outstanding technical and scientific achievements in research and development for the Navy. The first award went to Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation.

President DuBridge and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

As a member, and vice chairman, of Division A of the National Defense Research Committee, Dr. Lauritsen made a major contribution to the proximity fuse program. And, as research director of a group at Caltech, he contributed so much to the Navy's rocket program that he became known among most experts in the field as the "father of Navy rocket power."

After the war, the Caltech group became the nucleus of the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, California. Dr. Lauritsen served as first chairman of the NOTS Advisory Committee and has continued his committee membership, except during 1956 and 1957.

Dr. Lauritsen also helped formulate the plans which led to the establishment of the Office of Naval Research. In close association with Captain Conrad, he was influential in originating the concept and philosophy of operation of the Navy's contract research program.

Trustee

Whitley C. Collins, president and chief executive officer of Northrop Aircraft, Inc., has been elected a member of the Caltech board of trustees. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1898, he was graduated from the Wharton School of Banking and Finance at the University of Pennsylvania in 1921. From 1921 to 1929 he worked in the new business department of the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust in Chicago. After two years with the Lockheed Aircraft Company, as vice president and general manager, he became credit manager of the Security First National Bank in Los Angeles in 1931. He has been president of Northrop since 1954.

Roscoe F. Sanford

Roscoe F. Sanford, an astronomer at the Mount Wilson Observatory for almost 32 years, died on April 7. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, he received his PhD from the University of California in 1917. He was a member of the Lick Observatory in Santiago, Chile, from 1911 to 1915, and in 1918 he joined the staff at Mount Wilson, continuing his investigations with the 60- and 100-inch telescopes until his retirement in 1949. His photographs of the spectra of "cool red carbon" stars are accepted as the best ever made in his field.