

Views on the ALUMNI FUND

By LEE A. DUBRIDGE

THE California Institute of Technology is no stronger than its alumni. It deserves to exist only if its alumni are serving the community and the nation in an important way—and if it is also clear that what the alumni gained while students at the Institute made an important contribution to their careers.

Conversely, while the Alumni are reflecting credit on the Institute, the growing prestige and effectiveness of the Institute is of direct benefit to each alumnus. Hence, nothing but benefit to both sides can possibly result from a full and understanding collaboration between the Institute and its alumni body.

There are many forms which such collaborations may take. The Institute attempts through the Placement Office, the Alumni Seminars and other activities to render a service to the alumni. The Administration would welcome suggestions as to how these services may be extended and improved.

A number of alumni groups have recently arranged to render a very valuable assistance to the Institute's Director of Admissions in handling the problems relating to examination and selection of entering students. The enormity of this problem and the terrible responsibility involved are seen in the fact that this spring about 1100 students completed applications for admission to CalTech this fall. Seven hundred ninety were allowed to take entrance exams, about 400 did well enough to warrant an interview—and 180 were admitted. Are we sure we selected the best 180? Can we improve our system of administering examinations, gathering all relevant information about each student? The need for alumni help is obvious!

This problem is but one illustration of the way in which the Institute is entering a new era in its development. Its prestige is world-wide, the demands on its educational and research facilities are far greater than can be met. Science and engineering are facing new and greater opportunities in the world, in the nation, and especially in Southern California. The Institute can do no less than attempt to meet some, at least, of these needs. It cannot meet them all quantitatively. (We can hardly contemplate an undergraduate body of 3000 even if it were desirable!) But it can attempt to do the finest possible job, qualitatively. To do this, its facilities and staff must be kept at the highest level. A new, and substantially higher, faculty-salary scale now going into effect will insure our ability to attract and retain the best men. But our physical plant is not yet complete, our income for education and research is still inadequate.

It would be natural at this time to turn to our rapidly growing alumni body for aid. We would probably have done so—if the Alumni Association had not beat us to it! The Alumni Fund is your idea. It is a great one, and will be warmly welcomed by alumni, students, faculty, trustees and administration. It can help make CIT a finer place. Toward that end we shall work together.

This view by Dr. DuBridge is reprinted from the June 1947 issue of *ENGINEERING & SCIENCE*.

By HOWARD LEWIS

OUR Association exists to help us maintain old friendships and make new friends, to help us advance professionally, and to enable us, the chief beneficiaries of the Institute, to help the Institute provide similar opportunities for younger men.

Our assistance to the Institute can, and should, take several forms. We can assist materially in disseminating factual information about the Institute to the general public, to student advisers and administrators in high schools, and to potential supporters of the Institute. We can assist in the selection of candidates for admission to the Institute, particularly in areas relatively remote from Pasadena. Many of us can participate directly in seminars or student technical society meetings, to the great advantage of ourselves, the students, and the Institute. We can, to a limited extent, guide and counsel the students who are following us.

All of these activities require time, thought, and effort of individual alumni who are willing to help for the satisfaction of helping. Alumni are participating now in these efforts and they will doubtless continue to do so in increasing numbers.

We can also assist the Institute with direct gifts of funds for general or specific purposes. No general appeal for such assistance from the alumni has ever been made by either the Association or the Institute, but many alumni have expressed a desire to help and have asked why no effort was made to acquaint them with needs and why no provision was made for soliciting such gifts.

The establishment of a CalTech Alumni Fund was announced in *Engineering & Science* for June and at the annual meeting of the Association this year. While the fund is still very, very young and no canvass of members has yet been made, over \$1600 has been collected and deposited to the credit of the Fund. Disbursements from this fund can be made only with the approval of both the Institute Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

No specific allocation of funds has as yet been made. All of the alumni so far consulted hope to see the Fund instrumental in providing or helping to provide a gymnasium and other recreational facilities for the use of students, faculty, and alumni. With the acquisition of Tournament Park assured, plans for such facilities are being developed. When those plans are completed and when we, as alumni, have indicated the extent to which we are willing and able to contribute to their fulfillment, it will be possible to determine what specific part of the plan the alumni will undertake.

A canvass of all CalTech alumni is being started now. The Association and the Institute are asking for your help now. Don't miss this opportunity to show your appreciation of the generosity of those who made your CalTech training possible. Our strength is in numbers; 4000 small contributions can make a large total. Let's do what we can to make CalTech stronger and better.