

Alumni Helps the Admissions Committee

By George H. Hall*

COORDINATION OF an Alumni-Institute program designed to carry information on CalTech and its objective directly to more high school principals, teachers and students was a goal toward which there was definite progress during the past year. Instigated as a means of getting more applicants of the type the school desires, the program is one in which both the Admissions Committee, representing the Institute, and Alumni chapters had important roles this year and will have even more vital ones in the future.

In many instances, alumni can do a better job of contacting secondary school teachers and pupils than can Institute personnel. This is particularly true of distant areas and it is in such areas that alumni can be of great help. Some work of this type has been done in the past, but it is the belief of both alumni and the Institute that much more can and should be done. The Institute is prepared to cooperate in every manner possible in advising alumni of the kind of assistance needed and seeing to it that the necessary information is given them to do the job.

An excellent example of what has, and can be done, by both the alumni and the Institute was a meeting held this spring with Los Angeles High School Principals. The meeting was arranged by Howard Lewis '23, and attended by him, President Lee A. DuBridge and Professor L. Winchester Jones, Registrar and Director of Admissions. Both Dr. DuBridge and Professor Jones addressed the group with the latter outlining in some detail the type of well-rounded student in which the Institute is most interested. The Institute's policy of screening applicants for initiative and personality as well as scholastic accomplishments was explained. It was pointed out that the student with the highest grades is not necessarily the student we want. A student with a lower scholastic standing but with other qualities which the Institute feels are necessary for good engineering and scientific leadership, may well be the more desirable prospect.

As a result of this meeting the Institute received a number of requests from individual schools for similar talks. Every effort was made to comply with each request by sending as a speaker a member of the Admissions Committee or some other qualified member of the faculty.

While this sort of direct contact work can often be done by the Institute itself in cooperation with the alumni in the Los Angeles area, it seldom can in distant sections of the country, and here alumni are the only ones qualified to do the job.

A swing across country this spring by Professor Jones for the purpose of interviewing prospective students, and another trip through northern California, Oregon and Washington by Professor Foster Strong, associate dean for freshmen and a member of the Admissions Committee, enabled them to present such a program to several alumni chapters. They both reported an enthusiastic reception.



L. W. Jones

Professor Jones met with alumni chapters in Chicago, New York, Boston, Schenectady, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. To each he explained, as he did to the Los Angeles principals, the type of student CalTech desires. He also outlined ways in which alumni chapters could be of assistance in securing such students or helping the Admissions Committee in screening them. He asked for alumni assistance in furnishing a location for interviewing applicants by

members of the Admissions Committee in April or early May; for their assistance in supervision of freshmen entrance exams each March and, as previously explained, for their assistance in making contacts with high schools so as to get the best possible applicants.

His report on alumni offers for assistance in this program was most enthusiastic. "At all meetings there was expressed a sincere desire to be of help in these matters," Jones said. He also added that alumni express a very definite desire for more news of CalTech, its faculty and alumni. This is a request on which alumni can expect specific Institute action during the coming year.

In connection with these meetings, E. T. Groat '22, handled arrangements for the Chicago meeting. Arrangements at Schenectady were handled by Robert Moore '42; at Boston by Frank Jewett, Jr. '38; at New York by Evan Johnson '38, chapter president, and R. K. Pond '39, secretary; at Philadelphia by A. J. Larrecq '29. George Clapp '26 arranged for interviewing quarters for Professor Jones at Philadelphia. While an official meeting was not held at Pittsburgh, Professor Jones was met by three alumni who took him to dinner and, as he puts it, were "most hospitable." He also reported that he wishes to express his regret at not getting a chance to see R. H. Lockett '44, J. D. Corbine '34 and D. R. Lockett at Schenectady, who left a note saying that they had attempted to contact him.

Professor Strong's only alumni meeting this year on his interviewing trip to the Pacific Northwest was with the San Francisco chapter. His report of that meeting is equally enthusiastic. After first discussing with alumni Institute expansion plans, particularly as concerned with development of Tournament Park as a students' activities and athletic center and additional expansion plans for the campus proper, he, too, presented the Admission Committee's policy of seeking well rounded students as previously stated by Professor Jones.

His report brought immediate action. With Mau-

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DUBRIDGE SPEAKS AT TECH COMMENCEMENT

THE LARGEST NUMBER of students ever to receive degrees from the California Institute of Technology were graduated at commencement exercises on the CalTech campus Friday, June 13. More than 450 undergraduate and graduate students received degrees.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, CalTech president, who spoke on "The Responsibility of the Scientist."

As a part of commencement week activities a garden party honoring members of the class of 1947 was held Thursday afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Athenaeum with the president and board of trustees as hosts. Attending the reception in addition to graduating seniors, their families and friends, were associates of the institute, faculty members and special guests.

M.E.'S CLARK REPORTS TESTING PROGRAM

DR. D. S. CLARK, associate professor of mechanical engineering, spoke at a meeting of the American Society for Testing Materials at Atlantic City, N. J. He presented a paper on "An Experimental Study of the Propagation of Plastic Deformation Under Conditions of Longitudinal Impact" of which he and Dr. P. E. Duwez of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory were co-authors.

The papers presented the results of a portion of the work done at CalTech in the field of impact studies during the war under governmental research contracts.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PICKS DR. WENT

DR. FRITS W. WENT, professor of plant physiology at the California Institute of Technology, was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, it was announced in May. Election to the National Academy of Sciences, in which membership is limited to outstanding men in that field, is one of the highest honors a scientist can attain.

Dr. Went is particularly well known for his work on plant growth hormones and he is accredited with being the first to advance that phase of plant physiology to the place where it could be dealt with experimentally. His discoveries in the use of plant hormones for rooting of cuttings and in inducing fruit to set have led to wide use by growers. More recently he has been doing extensive work with plants under controlled conditions in CalTech's unique air-conditioned greenhouse in which temperatures, humidity, and light can be accurately regulated.

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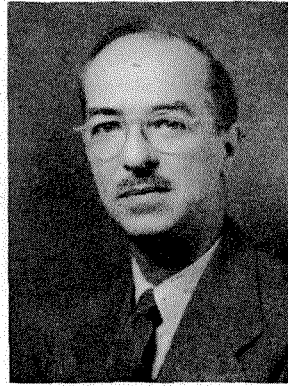
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Foster Strong

rice T. Jones '26 presiding, the chapter agreed to organize an informal speakers' bureau to provide speakers to address high school students and instructors on CalTech. The chapter also voted to set up machinery to take over supervision of freshmen entrance examinations to replace the present system of having such examinations given by high school instructors.

"I enjoyed the visit immensely," Professor Strong reported. "I found the San Francisco alumni most interested in CalTech and actively ready to do things with and for the school. They were very eager to find out ways in which they could help C.I.T. develop. I would strongly recommend that more staff members going north stop in on the San Francisco alumni. The alumni will appreciate the contact and the staff members will gain in their own enthusiasm and pride in CalTech from the contact."

These are examples of projects that are now underway or will be started during the coming year. It should also be pointed out that during the past six months more than 400 students from 14 different secondary schools visited CalTech and were taken for a tour of the campus and its facilities.

Special attention was given to such visiting groups and every effort was made not only to show them as much of the campus, its laboratories and other facilities as possible, but when possible they were addressed by some member of the Admissions Committee or other faculty member as well. Dates for visits were arranged as far in advance as possible and, when requested, it was also arranged for such groups to obtain meals at the cafeteria.

These are examples of what has been done during the past year. Both alumni and the Institute have initiated them. They have all been instrumental in getting the "CalTech story" to prospective students and their instructors. It is a good beginning and close cooperation between the school and alumni can well result in an outstanding job being done in the future.

ARMY STUDENTS TAKE REFRESHER THIS SUMMER

A GROUP of 15 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers officers will take special refresher and graduate courses in Civil Engineering at the California Institute of Technology this summer. Study will include work in mathematics, mechanics, and hydraulics.

At the present time Army and Navy personnel totalling 81 officers are taking both undergraduate and graduate work in civil, mechanical, and aeronautical engineering at CalTech.

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