George Russell Harrison, Technology's new Dean of Science, brings to his task the background of a brilliant career in applied physics and an intellectual acuity rarely found. Retiring from the position which he has admirably filled since 1932 is Dean Samuel C. Prescott.

A physicist of international fame, Dr. Harrison has by his work and the invention of several ingenious instruments made a number of important contributions to the fields of spectroscopy and applied physics.

A man who knew his calling from the start and has followed it with considerable success, forty-three-year-old Dr. Harrison feels now as strongly as ever that he unquestionably made the best choice. He entered Stanford University, in his native California, in the first year of the last war, became a private in the infantry while there, graduated with the class of 1919, and became a member of the teaching staff at Stanford while pursuing studies for advanced degrees. With the exception of a two-year sojourn as a national research fellow at Harvard, Dr. Harrison remained at Stanford until his appointment as Professor of Physics at Technology in 1930.

Dr. Harrison brought with him to the Institute his vacuum spectrograph, still the largest instrument of its kind in the world. With it, the staff has at its disposal a means of working with spectra otherwise impossible of study because they will not pass through air at normal pressure. Probably his greatest single achievement is the invention of an instrument which measures and calculates accurately the exact wavelengths of lines on spectrographic films. This apparatus has made possible the compilation by unskilled workers of "M.I.T. Wavelength Tables," a volume of data which otherwise would have required years of work on the part of highly trained experts. His interval sorter automatically determines the energy emissions of atoms and molecules by making repeated subtraction of wavelengths of their emission lines. In 1939, Dr. Harrison received the coveted Rumford Medal for his work in this field.

But Professor Harrison's activities are by no means confined to his work. A writer of considerable ability, he is editor of the Journal of the Optical Society of America, and author of the book, "Atoms in Action," a popular work on the varied aspects of modern physics.

Both Professor and Mrs. Harrison have been continually active in the Drama Club, an M.I.T. faculty organization, and Mrs. Harrison was for some time president of the group. The Harrisons live in Belmont, have two daughters and a son. Weekends, Dr. Harrison likes to get into overalls and work about his home. Archery, at which he has some skill, is one of his favorite recreations. At present he is avidly awaiting the arrival of New England's belated spring and the opportunity for weekends at his newly-acquired summer home in Vermont.