War Research

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War work outside of the very substantial educational programs for Navy V-12, Army Specialized Training, and Army Air Force Meteorology.

"Among the two hundred or more war research jobs performed by the Institute, the following are illustrative examples."

"When the rubber crisis became imminent, and it was clear that the nation would have to depend on the new synthetic rubbers, there had not been developed any successful method for reclaiming synthetic rubber. The Institute initiated a research and development program in which Professor Ernst Hauser and his colleagues in our Chemical Engineering Department were eminently successful. The process has been turned over to the rubber reclaiming industry, which is now using it."

"Professor Stark Draper in our Aircraft Instruments Laboratory, aided by a small enthusiastic group and supported by the Sperry Gyroscope Company, invented and perfected an anti-aircraft computing gun sight, known as Mark 14 Sight, which has been manufactured by the Sperry Gyroscope Company and used by the Navy in numbers surpassing all other computing anti-aircraft sights combined."

"Professor Robert Evans and his physics associates who run the M.I.T. cyclotron have utilized this instrument and its radioactive products to play a key role in the cooperative program for developing methods for preservation of whole blood, and maintaining its standards. This work has been significant in laying a technically sound basis for the great blood donor program and the use of whole blood to save hundreds of thousands of lives among the war wounded."

"Professor Gordon Brown, leading a sizable group in his Laboratory of Electrical Engineering Department, designed the control mechanism which points all the Army millimeter (Bofors) guns. This was especially cited by General O. M. Barnes when he sent to M.I.T. the Distinguished Service Award from the Army-Navy Department."

"Certain special facilities of the Institute, with their open staffs, have been operating day and night all through the war on jobs. For example, the Wright Brothers Wind Tunnel group, since five years dropped their fundamental search program and were for a large number of aircraft manufacturers to perfect the dynamic designs of the new types of military aircraft."

"Similarly, a striking story can be told of the war contrivances made by our Center of Analysis and its assembly of mechanical and electrical-automatic computing devices. By far the most potent computing device ever built is the enormous computing device ever built is the electronic digital computer, built with aid of a substantial grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. As one expert, the M.I.T. staff expressed it, 'some exaggeration,' 'it works the Navy's ballistic tables in time after five o'clock.' To the latest, but by no means last, of the remarkable group of computing devices conceived by Vannevar Bush and his colleagues, Professors Wiener, Caldwell, Brown, and others. They solve high speed problems of algebra, differential and integral equations, statistics and selection."

A SIGNIFICANT GIFT

Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., '95, recently presented the Institute $350,000 to establish a professorship in industrial management. The significance of this most generous gift must not be underestimated. Most of the other prominent educational institutions in this country have long had many endowed professorships, but, until the receipt of Mr. Sloan's gift, the Institute has never had such established chairs. Richly endowed professorships are an excellent means of attracting outstanding men to the faculty. Mr. Sloan has been eminently successful in the important field of industrial management as Chairman of the General Motors Corporation; his Alma Mater is deeply grateful to him for providing the wherewithal for a splendid professorship in his chosen field.

A WORD OF WELCOME

We should like to take this opportunity to welcome the entering freshman class, the Class of 2-48, to the Institute. Possibly this class will not escape the fate of its wartime predecessors. Its ranks will probably be decimated by the needs of the armed services. For this reason we urge every freshman to get the most out of his stay at the Institute, be it short or long.

Undergraduate organizations offer much to those who take part in them. These organizations not only provide agreeable relaxation from everyday classroom routine, but they also offer training in lines of endeavor far different from the regular Institute curriculum. Like most things in life, you can get out of activities only what you put into them. It's up to you to take advantage of your opportunities.

VOO DOO AGAIN!!

It seems as if the boys on the Voo Doo staff have given up even trying to be subtle. All we could say was "Ugh!" when we read their most recent miscarriage of humor. We respectfully suggest that their motto be made "Look to Voo Doo for crude-ership."