A Significant Year: '58-'59

As we look toward the finals which bear down upon us we remember the feeling which never fails to appear upon the approach of our final exam. It is that we have done this before. Again we stand at the corner of '59, confronting the same trials we did last year. The final exam is the same as before - only the place of our answers will be different. Again the same courses over again. Every final is the same, only the grades are handed out differently. No one can deny that the work load has been heavy and will continue to be heavy, but the satisfaction that is derived from the knowledge we have gained is enough to make us forget the hardships.

Looking back on the occurrences of the 1958-1959 year at the Institute from our vantage point, however, we can see that it was filled with accomplishments and actions that will live in infamy. The year was filled with events that were undoubtedly interesting, but in the past it has always been necessary to look to the present in order to see the significance of the past. This year was no exception.

Firstly, there was the simple maneuvering of the administration. This year they have been led by the capable Gordon Brown, who has been appointed as Dean of Engineering. Mr. Brown, in his years as chief of the Electrical Engineering Department, has shown himself to be a man of many talents, and his actions have been consistent with the "engineering-science" philosophy. We all hail Dr. Stratton for his energetic leadership, and the fact that he has chosen to serve on the faculty of MIT is a true tribute to the quality of the students and staff here. However, I must be careful to note that this is not the first time that an MIT president has been appointed from the faculty. The tradition of appointing presidents from within the faculty is one that we can all support, but it is important to remember that the choice of the president is a matter of great importance to the future of the Institute.

Secondly, there was the student government. MIT has always been a place where students have had a great deal of influence over the direction of the Institute. This year, the student government has rolled on in its traditional fashion, and we can see that the student government has been effective in implementing the wishes of the student body. This is a good sign, and we hope that this tradition will continue in the future.

Thirdly, there was the student body itself. The student body has been a driving force behind the changes that have occurred at MIT this year. The students have been active in demanding changes, and the administration has been responsive to these demands. This is a good sign, and we hope that this tradition will continue in the future.

Fourthly, there was the faculty. The faculty has always been a key component of MIT's success, and this year was no exception. The faculty has been active in implementing changes that have been requested by the student body and the administration.

Finally, there was the curriculum. This year, the curriculum has changed in many ways. New courses have been added, and old courses have been revised. The curriculum has been in constant flux, and we hope that this will continue in the future.

In summary, then, we can see that the year was a productive one for MIT. The Institute has made many changes, and these changes are for the better. We can only hope that these changes will continue to be made, and that the Institute will continue to be a leader in the field of science and engineering.