President's Report 1959

The new President's Report shows again that the Insti-
tute is already changing under Dr. Stratton. Its studies can-
not fail to be impressed by a profound awareness of the
long-range needs and trends of technical education. But
more than this, there is a continuing effort to see that the
Institute, with its first-hand status, stays a leader among
the colleges and universities whose educational concepts will
carry far into the next decade. It seems as though the
Group within the Faculty and Administration which, headed
by Dr. Stratton, has long favored a stronger base of funda-
mental science in the engineering curriculum has finally won
out over those who cling, with some justification, to an en-
geeering education in which technical courses in practical
design and application predominate. Perhaps "won out" is unfair, since it is certainly recognized that each point of
view has its merit. Yet there is some significant in the
fact that the President's Report mentions all these ele-
ments, whereas previous Reports have.

It is refreshing to read a report in which the broad out-
lines of policy are clear. Dr. Stratton's response to those
who cry for an "upgrading" of American education is sober and
considered. . . . MIT will contribute most to the auton-
omy of the student by a closer approximation to the
quality of our undergraduate school before venturing to
expands it materially in size. Some maintain that higher
education has much to learn from industry about more effi-
cient operation. While he agrees that this is true to some extent, Dr. Stratton is wary of facile solutions proposed from
outside the University, which do not properly appl-
ly to it. . . . We must keep ever in mind that the cul-
vation of the individual is our single goal, the sole
reason for our being." And, it might be added, the uni-
versities are among the few remaining places where this
good is appreciated. MIT as an academic institution, an
industrial institution, and one which, however deeply it may be
involved with the demands of society as a whole, refuses to
lose sight of the inspiration which is peculiarly its own
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Progress

It looks as if some old and new problems and projects at
the Institute are going to see action at last. The prob-
lem of the sunken sidewalks in the Great Court during
rainy weather must remain unsolved for the present, but
there is still hope of solving it. The Student Center has been
planned. In consideration of the fact that the Student Cen-
ter will be between Kresge Auditorium and the
row of commercial buildings on Massachusetts Avenue.

Campus area, but the exact location and size of the site are
as yet unknown.

Half Notes

Combined Musical Groups

Variety was the keynote Saturday night in Kresge Audi-
torium as the MIT Musical Clubs presented a combined
concert to a nearly filled house. Five different groups
were heard in a program including almost everything from
16th Century madrigals to Sun Kenton arrangements.

After the Brass Choir opened the program with competent
performances of two pre-Bach works, the Orchestra was
heard in Gregory Tucker's "Kishineth Suite". While prob-
ably not destined for immortality, it was quite interesting
and was well received by the audience, and underscored Pro-
fessor Tucker's talents as a composer as well as pianist
and teacher. The solo and small ensemble writing for the wood-
wind in the thirdly-scored soft passages was very lovely,
and the violin solos were particularly well performed.

The Choral Society sang selections in four different
languages, not always with complete precision
of attack, but with a rich sound and apparently a
real understanding for the music. The choice of program was
impossible of misses, and the overall effect was the most pleasing of
the evening.

The performance of the Technicians, while technically
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