Commencement, Alumni Day

Stratton gives 2 major addresses

Six hundred and forty degrees were awarded to graduating seniors in June. Also distributed were 399 masters, 131 doctorals, and 62 advanced engineering degrees.

Of these, 223 went to foreign students from 51 lands, and a record-breaking 31 to needs. Commissions for 36 cadets and midshipmen were awarded the day before at military exercises in Kresge Auditorium.

Symposium: A symposium, entitled "The Graduate's Role in Tomorrow's World," was held on June 11 in Kresge as part of the program for those graduating and their parents.

The speakers were: Edward J. Hanley '24, president of Allegheny L u d l u m Steel Corporation; Howard O. McIntosh '41, president of Arthur D. Little, Inc.; Dr. Jerome B. Wiener, Dean of the School of Science; and the Hon. Robert H. Winster, '33, former member of the Canadian cabinet and Parliament.

Steve Glassman, permanent president of the Class of 1964, moderated.

Hanley's remarks

Mr. Hanley spoke from the viewpoint of industry at the colloquium, and was especially concerned with the acquisition of knowledge.

"Your education has given you two types of resources. One is in a way the ability of analyzing, of arranging heads, and reaching conclusions. This will be with you forever. The other is in certain technical proficiency-more or less immediate value in your first job."

This latter knowledge will begin to become obsolete the minute you leave school.

"And unless it is updated in your work, by your own efforts, it will become of less and less value to you and the enterprise to which you will become a part." "Intellectual capital"

Hanley cited "competent authorities" who have "estimated that the college grade of 1956, has only six years of intellectual capital. A PhD in Physics has intellectual capital of only seven years. A PhD in engineering owns intellectual capital of only eleven years."

Main speaker of the 86th Commencement was President Julius A. Stratton. In addition, he personally distributed each degree.

In another major event, Doctor Stratton addressed an assembly of nearly 1,500 MIT alumni and their guests the Monday following Commencement.

The Alumni Day gathering was reminded that the true measure of a university is not to be found simply in its new buildings:

"A great university-like a great city-sees its history and its progress, in part, in its architecture. Its buildings, like the rings of a tree, provide visible evidence of its stages of growth."

"Yet the true measure of a university is found in less tangible things-the achievements of its alumni, in the character of its scholarship, and, above all, in the effectiveness of its teaching and the aims of its educational plan."

In this context, President Stratton reviewed recent Institute activities, calculated to maintain and strengthen MIT's international stature.

Two major activities cited were the review and revision of the undergraduate curriculum now pending before the Faculty, and the establishment of the privately-supported $135 million Alfred P. Sloan Fund for Basic Research in the Physical Sciences.

"Our primary aim, in the use of this fund will be to raise to even higher levels the quality, rather than the quantity, of our research," Stratton noted.

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