The decade did not begin auspiciously — Nichols resigned seven months after his selection without actually assuming the office of President. Soon after his inauguration, Nichols was struck down by an illness which made it impossible for him to take up his duties. His physicians insisted that he relinquish the post, and in the fall of 1923 he finally felt obligated to do so.

On October 13, 1922 The Tech reported that "A president for Technology was elected Wednesday afternoon when, at a meeting of the Corporation, Dr. Samuel Wesley Stratton was chosen to fill the place held for the past three years by Rogers, Walker, and Maclean." Dr. Stratton, who had been Director of the United States Bureau of Standards, was received enthusiastically by the undergraduates. In a message published in the issue of The Tech which announced his selection, Stratton wrote "I am in hearty sympathy with student activities. I have heard of the admirable way in which Technology undertakes to conduct their athletic teams, publications, etc., and I am in hearty sympathy with a high participation in them for recreation. A man who studies and does nothing is a divider of his time, who his career is missing a portion of his education.

In late 1924, MIT was the grateful recipient of Eastman Kodak stock conservatively valued at $4.5 million. The stock was the gift of George Eastman, one of MIT's most spectacular benefactors. Eastman's previous contributions included the $25,000 in anonymous gift for the New Technology and $4 million for the endowment donated in 1919 on the condition that others contribute an equal amount. In announcing the presentation, "of the stock, The Tech reported, "Mr. Eastman characterized Technology as 'the greatest school of its kind in the world.'"

MIT easily found uses for the contribution. Earlier that year, the MIT Corporation had taken options on relatively large parcels of land adjacent to the institutions' use in future expansion. A gift of $125,000 from Coleman duPont '24 toward the land purchase assured the availability of space for Tech's growing needs.

Entertainment was important to Techmen. All-Technology Smokers were designed for the undergraduates for one evening of recreation together. Each year the committee worked on the affair attempted to outdo the previous year's group in both the grandeur of the individual events and the glamour of the entertainers. The Smoker had offered a special attraction in the fall of 1926 when the advertising committee announced that there would be a wrestling exhibition by "professional wrestlers from abroad," and two boxing matches.

WIMX, the MIT Radio Society's station, was active through the 1920s after acquiring $5,000 worth of equipment in 1919. Interest in radio during that period made WIMX the center of a great deal of attention. The station set several new distance transmission records, sponsored lectures and movies, and appeared frequently on the first page of The Tech.

Freshman-Sophomore rivalry underwent a change that marked the decade. Moderation and fair play became more important than rivalry, and Field Day evolved into a series of athletic contests. In October of 1927 the Glove Fight was stationed as a replacement for wild free-for-alls between the classes, and President Stratton threatened to expel any student who hurt the prestige of the Institute by disorderly or improper conduct.

MIT's intercollegiate athletic teams were extremely successful in New England in 1926. The high point came in May, when three Engineer crews topped as many Harvard crews in an important New England meet. Institute teams also took most of the other events to complete a triumph which surprised the experts. The issue of The Tech which appeared on the Ides of March in 1929 reported that MIT's humor magazine, had just passed through a period of crisis. Following the controversial February, 1929 issue of the magazine, the Institute Committee appointed a committee to investigate Voo Doo's stance on campus and report on whether or not the magazine should be allowed to continue as a Technology publication. The February "Back Bay Number," presumably written as a satirical issue, had sold out in one day, according to Earl Glen, the proxy for the General Manager of Voo Doo. Glen claimed that the magazine had been forced to print such an issue because of its financial condition. With The Tech and the student body advancing its interest, the Institute Committee requested only that the responsible managing board resign and that the magazine comply with rules of decency in the future.

President Stratton appointed Harold E. Lobdell '17 to be Dean of Undergraduate Students in October, 1929. Lobdell had been Assistant Dean for the previous eight years and, since the death of Dean Henry P. Talbot '35 in 1927, had been in charge of the office. He was the third Dean of the postseason, the first having been Alfred E. Buron, who served from 1902 to 1921.

Several notable events occurred in 1930. Tuition was raised from $40 to $500, the second $100 increase in three years. Another item of interest was the development of the Technology Christian Association President. The MIT Presidency again changed hands during spring term of 1930 when Dr. Karl Taylor Compton was appointed to the position. Dr. Compton had been head of the Physics Department at Princeton and was considered one of the foremost physicists and educators in the country. Former President Stratton became Chairman of the MIT Corporation.

The Institute continued to expand. Plans were laid for the construction of a new dormitory behind Walker Memorial. With room for 200 students, this addition increased the Institute's dormitory capacity to 620. Planning also became for other buildings, including Building 5.

The freshman curriculum was revised in 1930: Mechanical Drawing and Descriptive Geometry were combined, first-year physics was modified to include only mechanics, and freshman chemistry hours were slightly reduced. In another major academic change, the Institute adopted a comprehensive system of grading. After three years of study and development, the Institute decided upon the system in order to allow parents and students to clearly understand the standards governing the action of the faculty in the determining students' academic reports.

The Institute treasurer's report for the fiscal year ending June, 1930 showed that the Institute's expenditures for the period had been almost $4 million. This figure explains The Tech's use of the word "superfluity" to describe the creation of a standard copy, and $4.2 million by Dr. Gerard Snopes '95, the President of the General Electric Company and a member of the Corporation.

The year ended with the Cambridge fire department's refusal to permit the traditional freshman bonfire. First-year students had destroyed their ties at this event, following the fire with the commemorative planting of a tree.

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