The decade did not begin auspiciously—Nichols resigned seven months after his selection without actually assuming the office of President. Soon after his inauguration, he died of 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 1932 he finally felt obligated to do so.

On October 13, 1922 The Tech reported that "A president for Technology was elected Wednesday afternoon when, as a result of the Corporation, Dr. Samuel Wesley Stratton was chosen to fill the place held in the past by such men as 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 undergraduates conduct and defend their athletic publications, etc., and I am heartily anxious to have full participation in them for recreation. A man who studies and does nothing else is a poor university student. A 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 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 acknowledging 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 the initiative on relatively large parcels of land adjacent to the institute for use in future expansion. A gift of $125,000 from Coleman du Pont '84 toward the land purchase assured the availability of space for Tech's growing hogs.

Entertainment was important to Techmen. All-Technology Smokers were designed to give the undergraduates for one evening of recreation together. Each year the committee working 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 1920, when the sponsoring committee announced that there would be a wrestling exhibition by "professional wrestlers from abroad," and two boxing matches.

WMX, the MIT Radio Society's station, was active through the 1930s after acquiring a $100,000 worth of equipment in 1919. Interest in radio during that period made WMX the center of a great deal of attention. The station served long distance transmission of records, sponsored lectures and movies, and appeared frequently on the air during the period. Freshman-Sophomore rivalry underwent a change late in 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, a series of athletic contests, was instituted as a replacement for wild free-for-alls between the two classes. President Stratton threatened to expel any student who harbored the privilege 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 1926 reported that "The MIT's humor magazine, had just passed through a period of crisis. Following the controversial February, 1925 issue of the magazine, the Institute Committee appointed a committee to investigate Fox Doo's status on campus and report on whether or not the magazine should be allowed to continue as a Technology publication. The February 'Back Buy Number,' purposely written as a smutty issue, had sold out in one day, according to Earl Gin, the proxy of the General Manager of You 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 advocating leniency, 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. Lodell '17 to be Dean of Undergraduate Students in October, 1925. Lodell had been Assistant Dean for the previous eight years and, since the death of Dean Harry P. Talbot '95 in 1927, had been in charge of the office. He was the third Dean of the Institute, the first having been Alfred E. Burton, who served from 1902 to 1921. Several notable events occurred in 1930. Tuition was raised from $400 to $500, the second $100 increase in three years. Another item of interest was the appointment 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 began 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 cumulative 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 stupendous to describe the creation of a new dormitory at a cost of $2.4 million, as reported by Dr. Gerard Swope '25, the President of the General Electric Company and a member of the Corporation.

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

While rivalry moderated in the 1920's, this 1925 freshman tug-of-war team still took competition seriously.

Dr. Ernest Fox Nichols, shown with Albert Einstein, was named President but resigned before assuming the post.

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