



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 11, 1958

To Members of the Faculty:

I wish to announce the establishment of a Department of Nuclear Engineering, in the School of Engineering, effective July 1, 1958. Dr. Manson Benedict, Professor of Nuclear Engineering, has been appointed Head of the Department.

From the time that nuclear energy was first applied in atomic bombs it has been apparent that there are vast opportunities for peaceful use of the forces in the nucleus of the atom and that a complex and highly advanced technology would be needed to apply these forces. It is clear that Nuclear Engineering requires a synthesis of the knowledge and methods of many fields, notably Physics, Chemistry, Metallurgy, Chemical, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

Under the leadership of Dr. Walter G. Whitman, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, excellent instruction has been offered in Nuclear Engineering subjects since 1952. Degrees of Master of Nuclear Engineering were first awarded in 1954, and the course was broadened in 1956 to provide for the degree of Doctor of Science. The new Department will continue to give degrees only for graduate study. As in the past, undergraduate students having sound prior training in Mathematics, Physics and Engineering fundamentals may enroll in Nuclear Engineering.

The M.I.T. Reactor, to be completed this spring, will provide a superb laboratory not only for research but for instruction in the technology of fission -- the controlled, self-sustained chain reaction which now is the source of atomic energy. Instruction in Nuclear Engineering will include the subject of fusion -- the reaction by which power is produced through the fusing of atomic nuclei. In the long-term evolution of Nuclear Engineering, it is expected that fusion will play as important a role as fission now does, and it is to be hoped that the Institute will prepare men for leadership in both fields.

J. A. Stratton

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