

Biographical Sketch
DR. JULIUS ADAMS STRATTON
President
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Julius A. Stratton, scientist and educational leader, was formally inaugurated as President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on June 15, 1959. He took office on January 1, at the same time that Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., became Chairman of the Corporation. Dr. Stratton had become Acting President in November 1957, when President Killian went to Washington to serve as Special Assistant for Science and Technology to President Eisenhower.

Dr. Stratton was born on May 18, 1901 in Seattle, Washington, the son of Julius A. and Laura (Adams) Stratton. After one year at the University of Washington he attended M.I.T. where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1923. He then spent a year at the Universities of Grenoble^{and}/Toulouse, and returned to M.I.T. as a Research Associate in Electrical Communications, receiving his Master of Science degree in 1925. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in Mathematical Physics from the Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule of Zurich in 1927, and remained in Europe on a traveling fellowship from M.I.T., studying principally at the Universities of Munich and Leipzig. Dr. Stratton was appointed Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at M.I.T. in 1928. In 1930 he transferred to the Department of Physics and became Professor of Physics in 1941.

When the Radiation Laboratory was established at M.I.T. in 1940,

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some fourteen months before Pearl Harbor, Dr. Stratton was one of the first members of the staff. In 1942 he was detached from the Laboratory to become Expert Consultant in the Office of the Secretary of War. During this period he organized a series of technical advisory committees to the Air Forces on programs of ground radar, radar fire control and radar bombing. His final task was that of assisting in the establishment of a development program for aids to all-weather flying. For these services he received the Medal for Merit from the Secretary of War in 1946. He was Chairman of the Committee on Electronics of the Research and Development Board from 1946 until 1948.

Following the termination of the Radiation Laboratory, Dr. Stratton established the Research Laboratory of Electronics at M.I.T., and acted as Director until he was appointed Provost in 1949. He became Vice President and Member of the Corporation of M.I.T. in 1951, and was appointed Chancellor in 1956. In this capacity he also served on the Executive Committee of the Corporation.

Dr. Stratton received the honorary degrees of Doctor of Engineering from New York University in 1955, Doctor of Science from St. Francis Xavier University in 1957, Doctor of Laws from Northeastern University in 1957, Union College in 1958, and Harvard University in 1959.

As a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Stratton was Chairman of the Academy's Committee on Loyalty in Relation to Government Support of Unclassified Research. He is currently a Trustee and Member of the Executive Committee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts; a Trustee and Member of the Executive Committee of the

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Ford Foundation; a Member-Trustee of the Rand Corporation (a non-profit organization engaged in research for the U.S. Air Forces and other government agencies); a Trustee of the MITRE Corporation; a Member of the National Science Board and of the Corporation of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Problems and Policies Committee of the American Council on Education; a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American Physical Society, and the American Institute of Radio Engineers, which awarded him its Medal of Honor for 1957. In addition he is a member of Zeta Psi, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi and the St. Botolph Club.

Dr. Stratton conducted important basic research related to the development of radio and radar and he is the author of: "Electromagnetic Theory," for many years the most widely read scientific book in this field.

In 1935 Dr. Stratton married Catherine N. Coffman. They have three daughters, Catherine N., Ann Cary and Laura Adams Stratton.

June 1959