



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 11, 1965

To Members of the Faculty:

I regret to announce the sudden death of Professor Hans Mueller, a superb teacher and one of the most beloved members of our Faculty, at his home in Belmont, on Thursday, June 10.

Among generations of students of physics Professor Mueller had been a legend. With boundless energy, wit, and a flair for classroom dramatization, he was successful to the highest degree in capturing their imagination and imparting to them his own enthusiasm for a subject. He always took a deep interest in students and gave his time unstintingly in counsel. Over the years he also had much to do with shaping the curriculum of the Department of Physics. He had taught almost every undergraduate subject offered by the Department and, at one time or another, was in charge of many of them.

Professor Mueller was born on October 27, 1900, the son of a Swiss farmer, at Amriswil, Switzerland. He received his Diploma in Science and Mathematics in 1923 and his Doctor of Science degree in Physics in 1927, both from the Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule in Zurich. He came to M.I.T. as a research associate in the Department of Physics in 1925, was made an assistant professor in 1928, associate professor in 1935, and professor in 1942. His service to the Institute was continuous except for the academic year 1937-38, when he was on leave as a Guggenheim Fellow at the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University.

In his field of optics, Professor Mueller had made numerous significant contributions. During the past two years he had been conducting research on the interaction of complex substances with monochromatic light, assisted by his daughter, Mrs. Agneta Domaszewicz, who was also a physicist and, until recently, a staff member of the Instrumentation Laboratory.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Mueller pursued research concerned with the physical properties of crystals, liquids, electrolytes and colloids. His work relating to the understanding of ferro-electrics, of the photoelastic effect, and the coagulation of colloids was of basic importance.

Professor Mueller was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Physical Society and a member of the Optical Society of America and Sigma Xi. From 1940 to 1950 he was associate editor of the Journal of the Optical Society of America.

Surviving, besides Professor Mueller's daughter, are his wife, Inez Jansson Mueller of 15 Preble Gardens Road, Belmont, and two brothers in Switzerland. Funeral and burial services will be held Saturday, June 12, at Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

J. A. STRATTON

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