



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 6, 1966

To Members of the Faculty:

I regret to inform you of the death of Dr. Arthur C. Cope, Camille Dreyfus Professor in Chemistry and from 1945 to 1965 Head of the Department of Chemistry, who was internationally recognized for his distinguished research in organic chemistry and for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the profession.

Dr. Cope suffered a heart attack and died Saturday evening, June 4, in Washington, D.C., while dining with associates of the American Chemical Society. He was chairman of the board of directors of the ACS and had gone to Washington to preside at a meeting of the ACS board on Friday. That evening he was toastmaster at an ACS banquet in honor of the retiring executive secretary, Mr. Alden H. Emery, and had remained in Washington for week-end meetings of the Committee on Science and Public Policy (COSPOP) of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Cope was for many years a principal officer of the ACS. He was first elected to the board of directors in 1951 and in 1959 he was elected chairman, which post he held continuously except for 1961, when he was society president. He was elected to his seventh term as chairman of the board last January.

Dr. Cope, a native of Dunreith, Indiana, received his B.S. from Butler University in 1929 and was awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1932. From 1932 to 1934 he was a National Research Fellow at Harvard University, working with Professor E. P. Kohler.

In 1934, he accepted a position as associate in chemistry at Bryn Mawr College, was appointed assistant professor one year later and associate professor in 1938. In addition to teaching he did research on condensation and alkylation reactions, discovering the reaction now known by his name involving rearrangement of allyl groups in a three-carbon system. In 1941, while holding a Guggenheim fellowship for "Studies of the Phenomenon of Tautomerism," he joined the faculty of Columbia University as an associate professor and continued there his research on reductive alkylation and preparation of various amines and aminoalcohols.

From 1942 to 1944 Dr. Cope was on leave from Columbia to serve full time as a technical aide of the National Defense Research Committee. In this capacity he was responsible for aiding in the administration of various military research programs in such diverse areas as chemical warfare agents and antimalarial drugs. For these services, he received the Certificate of Merit from the U.S. Government.

In January, 1945, Dr. Cope came to M.I.T. as Professor of Organic Chemistry and Head of the Division of Organic Chemistry. In July of that year he became Head of the Department of Chemistry. He began research on cyclic polyolefins and

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worked initially with cyclooctatetraenes. In 1952 he observed the first trans-annular reaction of medium-sized ring compounds and since that time has continued to work in this area, which involves studies of proximity effects of various substituents.

He served as Head of the Department of Chemistry until July 1, 1965, when he was appointed the first Camille Dreyfus Professor in Chemistry. The chair, established by a grant from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., earlier last year, is the only endowed chair in the department, and Dr. Cope's appointment to it recognized his outstanding contributions to M.I.T. and to his profession.

Dr. Cope's research in organic chemistry brought him numerous awards and honors. In 1944, he received the ACS Award in Pure Chemistry for his contributions in the fields of synthetic organic chemistry and molecular rearrangements. In 1958 he was presented with the annual Charles Frederick Chandler Medal by Columbia University for his pioneer work on the chemistry of medium-sized ring compounds and for his recognition of transannular reactions. In 1964 he was awarded the William H. Nichols Medal by the ACS New York Section. At the 19th National Organic Symposium last year, he received the Roger Adams Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to research in organic chemistry. The University of Wisconsin conferred the honorary LL.D. degree upon him at its Commencement in 1965, and during the 1964-65 academic year he was honored by his colleagues at the University of Chicago when they selected him as the Edward Clark Lee Lecturer for that year.

Dr. Cope's influence on the world of chemistry was not confined to teaching and research. Besides his service to the ACS, he was on the board of editors of Organic Reactions, Organic Syntheses, Journal of the American Chemical Society, and Journal of Organic Chemistry. Dr. Cope was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. He had published more than 200 papers and made outstanding contributions to chemical education.

He resided at 10 Emerson Place, Boston, and is survived by his wife, the former Harriet Thomas Packard, and a step-son, Gregory, age 10.

Funeral services for Dr. Cope will be held at the Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston, at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 9. Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Chemical Society.

J. A. STRATTON