



September 24, 1969

To Members of the Faculty:

I regret to inform you of the death of Dr. Warren Sturgis McCulloch, internationally distinguished neurophysiologist and a member of the staff of the Research Laboratory of Electronics since 1952. Dr. McCulloch, who was 70 years old, died following an apparent heart seizure Wednesday morning at his farm home near Old Lyme, Conn.

Dr. McCulloch was a world authority on the organization and function of the central nervous system and his research and his writings have contributed much to our understanding of the principles of control, feedback and communications as they are manifested in neural networks. He brought to his work a rich background and training in the allied fields of medicine, psychiatry, neurology, physiology, physics, mathematics and cybernetics. As a former professor first at Yale University and then at the University of Illinois, he was a gifted teacher and many of his former students now themselves are major contributors to the sciences related to the function and organization of the nervous system.

Dr. McCulloch, a native of Orange, N. J., was graduated from Yale in 1921, then received the M. A. degree in 1923 and the M. D. degree in 1927, both from Columbia University. He was interne and later resident in neurology at Bellvue Hospital in New York 1927 and 1928, did research on experimental epilepsy at Columbia 1928-30, then worked on brain injury research at Bellvue 1930-31. Following a year of graduate study at New York University in mathematical physics, he was a resident in psychiatry at Rockland State Hospital, N. Y., 1932-34, then joined the Yale medical school where his research and teaching centered around neurophysiology. He joined the University of Illinois medical school as associate professor of psychiatry in 1941 and in 1945 became professor of psychiatry and clinical professor of physiology, which posts he held until coming to M. I. T. in 1952.

He was a member of numerous major professional societies and frequently served as organizer and chairman of scholarly conferences and seminars. Dr. McCulloch was one of the organizers of the American Society for Cybernetics in 1967 and served as the society's first president.

Dr. McCulloch is survived by his wife, Mrs. Rook Metzger McCulloch, and a daughter, Mrs. Mary Jean Vasiloff, both of Old Lyme; a son, Dr. David Sears McCulloch, Palo Alto, Calif., and another daughter, Mrs. Alfred Holland of Lincoln, Mass.

Jerome B. Wiesner, Provost