Universities Called Hope For Creation Of ‘New Science’

By HARVEY POLLARD

A “new society” and a “new science” loom upon the “horizons of the life sciences,” proclaimed Nobel Prize winner Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, in an Academic Festival lecture in Hamman Auditorium last Friday morning.

Discussing the “new science,” Szent-Gyorgyi sketched the three periods of the history of science, passing from the intensely “thought or human centered” Aristotelian, to the humbling “experimental or ‘world centered’” Newtonian, to the present “de-humanitized” period of the X-ray and quantum mechanics.

THE NEW SCIENCE would involve a “humanization” of some kind, said Szent-Gyorgyi. He added that life was too perfectly organized to be accounted by a “random movement” explanation, and predicted that the “new science” would be as revolutionary a development as the advent of quantum mechanics was a half-century ago.

A corollary of the present “dehumanitized period” in science, commented Szent-Gyorgyi, was a world tottering on an edge between “opulence and suicide.” “Man’s problem,” he said “is that he doesn’t understand his human unity.” Convincing man of his humanity would be the comple-

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“... man doesn’t understand ...”
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mentary task of “life science” in the future.

BY CITING the idea that science knows no national boundaries, Szent-Gyorgyi justified the “new society” as a proper goal of sciences. The “new society” would have a dual allegiance, to the nation and, scientifically, to humanity as a whole. The “new society,” a product of the “life sciences” in a true sense, would be one based on “mutual respect and intellectual honesty.”

The vehicle for achieving these goals of the life sciences will be the university. He warned that the ‘new science” and the “new society,” in reality one and the same, could not come out of many of our universities because, currently, they turn out “narrow-minded fools.” It is time, concluded Szent-Gyorgyi, that they turn out human beings.