Dr. Villard of Stanford Honored by Engineers

Dr. Oswarld G. Villard Jr., 39 year old electircal engineer of Stanford University, last night was chosen "Outstanding Young Bay Area Engineer of 1955" at a Bay Area Engineers' banquet in the St. Francis Hotel.

Doctor Villard, associate professor of electrical engineering with the radio propagation laboratory at tSanford, was honored for his contributions to the field of radio engineering and to the public welfare.

H. J. Brunnier, chairman of the Bay Area Engineers' Week Committee, presented a scroll to Doctor Villard.

NEED OF RESEARCH TOLD.

Dr. J. E. Hobson, Stanford Research Institute director, told the group that "industry should support new institutions of science devoted exclusively to basic research.

"The demand for new scientific knowledge," he said, "has outstripped the rate of accumulation . . . and the demand for scientists exceeds the production of our education and technical training programs."

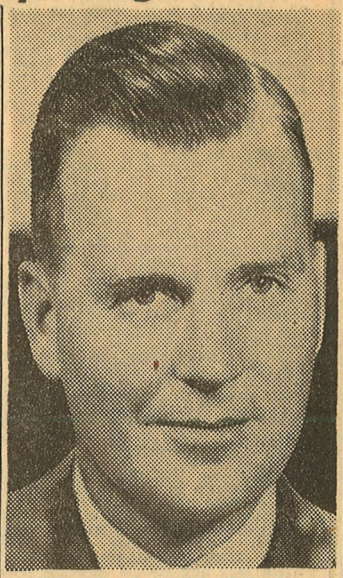
He warned that "we are faced with a depletion of basic scientific information which can only result in a slackening of industrial progress, a sapping of economic vitality, and a less than adequate defense effort.

BEHIND DEMAND.

"Engineering education and training have simply not kept pace with the demand for young men whoses preparation is superior to that provided ten, twenty or fifty years ago," said Doctor Hobson.

"The real technical man power shortage is qualitative."

The laboratories and universities of Europe, "upon which we have historically relied for major sources of new, fundamental scientific knowledge, now are depleted," he said.



DR. O. G. VILLARD JR.
Paid Tribute at Banquet

POSSIBLE SOURCES.

He suggested two possible sources of financial support for additional research:

1—Establishment of a National Basic Research Fund "to which monies would be contributed by industry . . . from which allocation would be made to selected basic research institutes or centers."

2—Federal tax credits—outright credit on final computed tax, not on deductions alone. "This," said Doctor Hobson, "would find 95 cents, say, of industry's tax dollar going to government, while the other 5 cents would go to the Basic Reserach Fund or be channeled into basic research effort through some other avenue."

Concluded Doctor Hobson:

"Our very life in a free world, and certainly our economic wealth, depend upon the engineer and his logical objective . . . and upon his creative skills. But we must give him raw scientific information with which to work, and we must free and develop his creative potential.

"A new day for the engineer is dawning, or our collective sun is setting."