

THE HON. TANG PING-YUAN, O.B.E., B.S., J.P.

In Chinese philosophy, there is a mention of the "superior man", the person who exemplifies in his person and his actions, the great virtues. Our graduand, Mr. Tang Ping-yuan (唐炳源), is such a man.

Mr. Tang was born in Wusih, a county in China noted for its many eminent industrial pioneers and leaders. After graduation from Tsing Hua College, he went to the famed Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating in 1923 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. On returning to China, Mr. Tang began a distinguished career in industry, particularly in cotton textiles, flour and cement.

In 1948, Mr. Tang came to Hong Kong and formed the South Sea Textile Manufacturing Co., Ltd., which is now one of the largest and best-equipped cotton textile mills in Hong Kong. He is also the head of the Mayfair Industries Ltd. and a director of the Hong Kong Telephone Co., Ltd. and Television Broadcasts Ltd.

It is now, of course, a well-known fact that Hong Kong's economic well-being depends to a unique degree on our industry, particularly textiles. From the very start, Mr. Tang has been deeply involved in our Industrial Revolution in its various aspects: productivity, technology, marketing, industrial relations, and labour welfare. In providing exemplary conditions of service to his mill operatives, Mr. Tang has won an enviable reputation as a progressive industrialist. In recognition of his services to Hong Kong's public interests in general and industry in particular, he was appointed a Member of the Legislative Council in 1964.

But Mr. Tang is not just an industrialist in the narrow sense of the word. He is deeply committed to the conviction that human resources should be constantly improved through more and better education—a conviction that is evidenced by his intimate association with, and generous donations to, educational institutions in both China and Hong Kong. In China, he was a member of the Academia Sinica and the Board of Trustees of the National Tsing Hua University. In Hong Kong, he is now a Council Member of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, a member of the Advisory Board of the University's Lingnan Institute of Business Administration, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the New Asia College, and a Court Member of the University of Hong Kong. He was also instrumental in sponsoring the donation by the cotton spinning industry to the Technical College of a textile laboratory building and more recently in planning and advising on an expansion programme for the Kiangsu-Chekiang College. To the Chinese University, the New Asia College and the Kiangsu-Chekiang College he has given evidence of his readiness to extend unstinted financial assistance. Rarely has there been any example of the successful combination of two distinguished careers as an industrialist and an educator.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, it is my privilege to request you to confer on Mr. Tang Ping-yuan the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.