

'First' Doctor of Philosophy degrees awarded by School of Science and Engineering

January 23, 1963

A 25-year-old biochemist from Salem, Oregon, who studied the material of which chromosome are made will be one of two students to receive the first degree of Doctor of Philosophy ever awarded by the School of Science and Engineering at the University of California's San Diego campus, Herbert York, San Diego Chancellor, has announced.

He is Donald Crothers who successfully completed the comprehensive -- leading to the conferment of the Ph.D. degree last week. Crothers was among the first students to be admitted to the School of Science and Engineering when it opened its doors for classwork and research in September, 1960.

Crothers and Kleber S. Masterson, Jr., from San Diego, a physicist, shared the "first" Ph.D. honor by fulfilling all requirements for the degree January 18.

Crothers received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Yale University in 1958, and a S.A. degree in biochemistry from Cambridge University, England, in 1960.

His thesis, "Denaturation of Helical Polynucleotides," was both theoretical and experimental. In it he studied the change of deoxyribose nucleic acid (DNA) from the helical, or spiral, form to the disordered form. DNA is one of three chemical substances which make up chromosomes-- carriers of the material basis of heredity.

Crothers' doctoral committee chairman was Dr. Martin Kamen, Professor of Chemistry.