

earing. In 1931, Dr. Bekku took up an appointment with the Sumitomo Electrical Industries, where he was responsible for important research and development work in the field of electrical power transmission and distribution.

During the period up to the outbreak of the Second World War, Dr. Bekku published papers dealing with measurements on overhead transmission lines, unbalanced alternating current circuits, concentric cables and power capacitors.

In 1952, Dr. Bekku was elected president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Japan. In

1956, the Central Power Research Laboratory, a research association which serves the nine major electricity supply organizations in Japan, appointed Dr. Bekku its director and he was responsible for work on the development of the 380-kV. transmission system.

Dr. Bekku took great pleasure in the maintenance of his contacts with electrical engineers and physicists in the United States. He had travelled extensively in Europe and America and he enjoyed climbing and skiing. Dr. Bekku is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### The Rockefeller Foundation : New Officers

DR. J. GEORGE HARRAR has been elected vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Robert S. Morison has been elected director for medical and natural sciences, a programme merging the biological, medical and public health interests of the Foundation. Dr. John C. Bugher is to be consultant on nuclear energy and as a principal officer will assist all programmes with respect to the impact of nuclear energy. Dr. Albert H. Moseman has been appointed deputy director for agricultural sciences, the new designation of the former agricultural programme. Dr. Lindsley F. Kimball continues as executive vice-president and Dr. Warren Weaver as vice-president for the natural and medical sciences.

Dr. Harrar joined the Foundation in 1943 as local director for the agricultural operating programme in Mexico. He became deputy director for agriculture in 1952 and director in 1955. Dr. Harrar is also serving in a special capacity as director of the National Academy of Sciences Survey on Education, Science and Technology in Africa south of the Sahara. When he joined the Foundation he was the sole staff of its agriculture programme. Established with Dr. Harrar's arrival in Mexico in 1943, this agricultural programme now has operating units in Mexico, Colombia, Chile and India, an extensive international fellowship and scholarship plan, and a grants programme in support of agricultural research and education. Approximately 6,270,000 dollars was appropriated last year by the Foundation in support of these three types of activities.

Dr. Morison was formerly director for biological and medical research in the Foundation. A graduate of Harvard University and of the Harvard Medical School, he taught in the latter before joining the Foundation in 1944. Dr. Bugher, a member of the Foundation's staff since 1943, was given leave of absence to serve for four years as director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. He returned to the Foundation in 1955 as director for medical education and public health. He represented the Atomic Energy Commission officially at the Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in 1958 and is a member of the Commission's advisory committee on biology and medicine. Dr. Moseman joined the Foundation in 1956. He was previously director of crops research of the agricultural research service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### National Science Foundation Office of Social Sciences

THE National Science Foundation has recently established an Office of Social Sciences with Dr. Henry W. Riecken as its head. The Foundation has also appointed an Advisory Committee for the Social Sciences to advise on programmes and policy, the members of which are: Dr. Leonard S. Cottrell, social psychologist, Russell Sage Foundation; Prof. Fred Eggan, professor of anthropology, University of Chicago; Dr. John Gardner, president, Carnegie Corporation; Dr. Pendleton Herring, president, Social Science Research Council; Prof. Joseph Spengler, professor of economics, Duke University; Prof. S. S. Wilks, professor of mathematics, Princeton University; and Dr. Dael Wolfe, executive secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science. The National Science Foundation intends to support basic research in the social sciences, since such support is invaluable in assisting social scientists to improve their research techniques, to accumulate fundamental knowledge about human behaviour and society, and to develop sound theoretical bases for further inquiry.

### British Scientific Attaché in Moscow :

Mr. D. A. Senior

MR. D. A. SENIOR, of the Royal Naval Scientific Service, has been appointed to the newly created post of scientific attaché to the British Embassy in Moscow; he will advise the British Ambassador, Sir Patrick Reilly, on scientific matters and report on Soviet scientific and technical development in the civil field. Mr. Senior, who is thirty-five, will hold the rank of senior principal scientific officer and will be on the staff of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Mr. Senior attended Batley Grammar School, Yorks, where he won an open scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated at Cambridge in 1943 with first-class honours in mechanical sciences (with distinction in electronics). He also won the Charles Lamb Prize in electrical engineering. In 1946 he shared the John Wimbolt Prize in civil engineering. From Cambridge he entered the Naval Construction Research Establishment at Rosyth, where he worked on high-speed photography. Since 1950 Mr. Senior has been at the Admiralty Research Laboratory, Teddington, mainly investigating problems of instrumentation and combustion. Recently, he carried out a study of acoustic