

PITIRIM A. SOROKIN, well-known Harvard University sociologist, will retire from teaching on 31 Aug. He will continue to direct the university's center for research in creative altruism.

The more than 30 books that he has written include *Contemporary Sociological Theories*, first published in 1928. In the 4-volume *Social and Cultural Dynamics* (1937-40), Sorokin presented his philosophy of history. Periods of "sensate" culture, based on a materialistic outlook and developing strong natural sciences, alternate with periods of "ideational" culture, based on faith, mysticism, and authority, as in medieval European society. He believes that our own Western culture is sensate and that its breakdown is at hand.

Sorokin was born in Russia 66 years ago. Active in Russian politics before the revolution, he was banished by the Bolsheviks in 1923. Coming to America, he taught at the University of Michigan from 1924 to 1930. In the latter year he became a United States citizen. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1931. In 1937 he was president of the International Congress of Sociology.

ARNO C. FIELDNER, 74 years old, government research scientist and an expert on fuels, has retired.

F. F. NORD, Fordham University, New York, has received an honorary degree of doctor of agricultural sciences from the University of Pisa, Italy, in recognition of his work on lignin and the mechanism of enzyme action.

SUNIL CHANDRA DATTA, pharmacognosist, Indian Food and Drug Administration, after spending more than a year at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, has returned to Calcutta.

CHARLES H. WEAVER, who has directed the atomic power division of Westinghouse Electric Corp. since it was organized in 1948, has been elected a vice president, with responsibility for all Westinghouse atomic power activities. These will include the design and development of two additional atomic submarine power plants, the nuclear power plant for a large naval vessel, and the nuclear power plant for the nation's first full-scale atomic power plant for the generation of electricity.

GEORGE H. BOYD has relinquished his duties as head of the department of zoology at the University of Georgia in order to devote his full time to his work as dean of the graduate school and director of research. R. BARCLAY MCGHEE has replaced Boyd as head of the department of zoology.

WALTER C. RUECKEL, vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Co., Oakland, Calif., has been elected vice president and general manager of the engineering and construction division of Koppers Co., New York.

EVERETT P. PARTRIDGE, director of Hall Laboratories, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been presented the 1955 Max Hecht award of the American Society for Testing Materials in recognition of his 30 years of contributions to the technology of industrial water.

ROBERT PERLOFF, former supervisory research psychologist in the Department of the Army and chief of the statistical research and consultation unit of the Adjutant General's Office, has joined the staff of Science Research Associates, Chicago, as director of test research.

DAVID LYALL has been promoted from associate professor to professor of clinical surgery at the Post-Graduate Medical School of the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center. He has also been appointed director of the center's University Hospital Tumor Service and the Fourth Surgical Division of Bellevue Hospital, succeeding HERBERT WILLY MEYER, who resigned 1 July. PAUL S. SEAGER has been promoted from associate professor to professor of clinical otorhinolaryngology.

GILES F. FILLEY will join the department of medicine at the University of Colorado Medical Center on 1 Sept. He will also serve as clinical physiologist at the Colorado Foundation for Research in Tuberculosis. Filley was formerly director of the department of physiology, Trudeau-Saranac Institute, Trudeau, N.Y.

HENRY W. FITZPATRICK has been appointed director of defense laboratories at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, succeeding HORACE S. FORD. The duties of director include administrative responsibility for Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, the Instrumentation Laboratory in Cambridge, and the Operations Evaluation Group in Washington.

A. JUDSON WELLS, an assistant research director of the Du Pont Co.'s film department and director of the Yerkes Research Laboratory in Buffalo, N.Y., will move to Wilmington, Del., 1 Sept. to devote full time to his work as assistant research director. CLEMENT W. THEOBALD, who has been research manager at the laboratory, will succeed him as director there. In the meantime, Theobald will act as deputy director of the laboratory. FREDERICK W. GANDER, a research supervisor, has been named research manager.

Necrology

ADELBERT AMES, JR., Hanover, N.H., 74, research professor in the department of physiological optics at Dartmouth, former director of Dartmouth Eye Institute, discoverer of cure for aniseikonia, 3 July.

H. SHERIDAN BAKETEL, Philadelphia, 83, former professor of preventive medicine at Long Island College of Medicine, editor of *Medical Economics*, former president of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association, 7 July.

EDWARD S. BROWN, Philadelphia, 49, an osteopathic surgeon and chief of the department of chest surgery at Metropolitan Hospital, 12 July.

WALTER L. CHENEY, Washington, D.C., 65, professor of physics at George Washington University, 6 July.

REINA A. HUTNER, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., 44, research scientist, Haskins Laboratories, former member of Office of Scientific Research and Development, 4 July.

WENDELL M. LATIMER, Oakland, Calif., 62, former dean of the college of chemistry, associate director of the radiation laboratory, University of California, 1954 chairman of AAAS Section C, 6 July.

PAUL DE LESSEPS, San Sebastian, Spain, 75, industrial engineer and only surviving son of builder of the Suez Canal, 11 July.

GUSTAVE MAGNEL, Brussels, Belgium, 65, professor of civil engineering at the University of Ghent, inventor of Belgian system of prestressed concrete construction, 5 July.

ETIENNE OEHMICHEN, Paris, 72, researcher in helicopter aviation, naturalist, author, 10 July.

OSCAR ORIAS, Buenos Aires, 49, director of Instituto de Investigación Médica-Mercedes y Martin Ferreyra, physiologist, author, 4 June.

ERNEST R. SASSCER, Washington, D.C., 72, retired head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, division of foreign plant quarantines, former president of the AAAS and of the Entomological Society of America, 7 July.

RUFUS E. ZIMMERMAN, New York, 68, president of American Standards Association, former chairman of research policy committee, 21 June.

In the Laboratories

■ A tiny new electronic device made of extremely pure silicon shows promise of reducing costs on a large scale in many industries using electric power, Bell Telephone Laboratories has announced.

The simple device—a silicon power rectifier—converts alternating current into direct current, an essential step in the operation of telephone systems. In-