Edward G. Sherburne, Jr.

It was felt that, although the new staff member should work largely through other agencies, he might well develop independent programs—perhaps seminars to bring together scientists and editors and scientists and television people, for example. Or again, he might set up a consultation service to aid the local groups now being established in a number of cities to provide information on such subjects as water and air pollution, radiation hazards, and fluoridation.

When presented with some of these suggestions, Sherburne expressed himself on a philosophical point that he feels is essential to the development of his office. "The basic ingredient which must underlie a sound program of public education," he says, "is respect for the knowledge to be shared, and the correlates of respect for the specialist sharing it, and for the recipients. While this may be almost a truism, when matched against practice, it is often the basic cause of failure in many efforts."

Sherburne will arrive at AAAS headquarters in mid-March to launch the new program. He will be aided by the AAAS Committee on Public Understanding of Science, which is chaired by Warren Weaver of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Members include Willard Bascom of the National Academy of Sciences, Allen T. Bonnell of the Drexel Institute of Technology, Victor Cohn of the Minneapolis *Star and Tribune*, Laurence M. Gould of Carleton College, Richard D. Heffner of the CBS Television Network, Paul E. Klopsteg of Glenview, Ill. (ex officio Board representative), and Dael Wolfle of the AAAS (ex officio).

SSRS Incorporation Successful

The court in Doylestown, Pa., ruled last month in favor of the Society for Social Responsibility in Science, granting a charter over the opposition of the American Legion. The SSRS applied for a charter in 1957, but the American Legion filed an opposing brief. The court appointed a Master of the Court to review the briefs for each side; the report of the Master was in the society's favor.

Yet the court overruled its own Master and decided against SSRS on the grounds that the wording of its constitution regarding the purpose of the society was vague. The constitution was rewritten to clarify the statement, but the American Legion also objected to the revised version. Months went by, then finally the court decided in favor of SSRS.

The decision makes it possible to apply for tax-exempt status. This status will help the society seek funds from various foundations with which to implement its concerns through various programs. The immediate reason for the incorporation proposal in 1957 was a desire on the part of SSRS to initiate a "Conference on the Constructive Uses of Science," a proposal which may now perhaps move ahead.

Science Foundation Establishes Social Sciences Division

The National Science Foundation has elevated its Office of Social Sciences to divisional status. Henry W. Riecken, on leave of absence from the University of Minnesota to head the office, has been appointed assistant director of the new Division of Social Sciences. (The other divisions of the foundation are the Division of Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences; the Division of Biological and Medical Sciences; and the Division of Scientific Personnel and Education.)

The change was made in recognition of the need for increased support of fundamental studies in the social sciences, particularly in view of diminishing assistance from other sources. Several large private foundations have either reduced their support of such basic research or have shifted the emphasis of their support in this field to applied research. The National Science Foundation is the major agency of government supporting basic research in the history and philosophy of science, in large areas of anthropology, sociology, and social psychology, and in areas of economics which lend themselves to scientific treatment.

Foundation director Alan T. Waterman pointed out: "The magnitude of the need is indicated by noting that for the past two years the funds granted for support of the social sciences have been only about one-fifth of the funds requested in the form of proposals. The foundation's action indicates its appreciation and recognition of the importance and quality of scientific research in the social sciences and its belief in the sustained growth of these fields."

Division To Have Four Programs

The new division will organize its support of basic research in the social sciences under four programs: (i) anthropological sciences, including ethnology, archeology, linguistics, and physical anthropology; (ii) economic sciences, including econometrics, economic and social geography, the economics of research and innovation, and general mathematical economics; (iii) sociological sciences, including demography, social psychology, psycholinguistics, and the sociology of science; and (iv) a program supporting basic research in the history and philosophy of science.

In addition to achieving a more adequate level of support for the best proposals than has been possible heretofore, the foundation hopes to assist "coherent areas" of social science research. Several requests have been received by the foundation for interdisciplinary basic research aimed at understanding complicated phenomena, such as the structure and acquisition of language; the economic behavior of units within our social system, from the individual to more complex units such as households, firms, and governmental units; and the behavior of social systems and social processes themselves. These requests indicate some of the current frontiers of social science research where rewarding progress may be expected.

Rapid Budget Increase

When the Office of Social Sciences was created in 1958, the annual budget was $850,000, dispersed among 49 grants. The present budget (fiscal year 1961) is $3.4 million; this should provide about 130 grants.

Foundation activities in the social sciences are guided by an advisory committee, now termed a divisional committee, whose members include Leonard S. Cottrell of the Russell Sage Foundation, New York; Fred Eggan, of the University of Chicago; John Gardner of the Carnegie Corporation, New York; Pendleton Herring of the Social Science Research Council, New York; Joseph Spengler of Duke University; S. S. Wilks of Princeton University; Logan Wilson of the University of Texas; and Dael Wolfle of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

News Briefs

Tritium symposium. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has announced that the International Atomic Energy Agency will convene a Symposium on the Detection and Use of Tritium in the Physical and Biological Sciences, 10–14 April 1961, possibly in Vienna, Austria. The symposium, the first comprehensive international meeting on this subject, reflects the growing recognition of the uses of tritium as a research tool. Those interested in participating must submit abstracts *by 3 January 1961*, and completed papers by 1 March 1961, either directly to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna 1, Kaerntnerring, Austria, or to the Office of Special Projects, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington 25, D.C.

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Karolinska's 150th year. The Karolinska Institute in Stockholm has just celebrated its 150th anniversary with a specially arranged anniversary week program that began on 29 November. Among the distinguished speakers were the following from Canada and the United States: Charles H. Best of Toronto, Francis D. Moore and Walter Bauer of Boston, and Irving S. Wright of New York.

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Influenza bibliography. The first installment in a continuing bibliography on influenza research has been released by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Volume 1, Number 1 contains 176 references in the following categories: general and review; epidemiology; clinical; pathology; prophylaxis; immunology; virology; and animals. Approximately 2600 journals, domestic and foreign, are searched. Volume 1 contains references for the period 1 June through 31 August 1960. A separate volume, soon to be published, will cover 1 January 1957 through 31 May 1960.

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More scientists in industry. Employment of scientists and engineers in industry rose nearly 7 percent between January 1959 and January 1960, according to the National Science Foundation. This compares with only a 5-percent rise from 1958 to 1959. The proportionate increase from 1959 to 1960 was greatest for physical scientists, but the growth in number of engineers greatly exceeded the growth in other occupational groups.

The figures are based on preliminary estimates from a survey conducted for NSF by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. More than 10,000 companies cooperated to furnish the data, which will aid in developing programs designed to strengthen the country's scientific manpower resources. The foundation will publish a final report on the survey early in 1961, presenting detailed employment statistics.

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Colgate-Palmolive Research Center. The Colgate-Palmolive Company has announced the start of construction of a multi-million dollar research center adjacent to the Rutgers University Science Campus near New Brunswick, N.J. When completed, in the spring of 1962, the building will house the company's scientists working in such fields as biology, oral health, pharmacology, biochemistry, physiology, enzymology, and bacteriology. Colgate-Palmolive and Rutgers have worked closely in the past on a number of basic research projects.

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Education guide for nuclear science. The Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies has polled more than 300 colleges and universities to compile a 76-page brochure on nuclear science education programs in the United States. The main section of the publication lists in detail the degrees, courses, and facilities at each of 175 universities and notes the availability of fellowships and assistantships. A comprehensive table summarizes this information for institutions offering a formal degree in nuclear science, or offering the option of nuclear-science courses as part of a conventional degree.

The institute plans to issue subsequent editions in future years and is considering the inclusion of data for universities in other countries. Copies of the publication, *Education Programs and Facilities*, are available free of charge from the University Relations Division, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

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U.S. mortality rate. There were 1,656,814 deaths in the United States during 1959, a rate of 9.4 deaths per 1000, the U.S. Public Health Service reports. The rate is almost the same as that for 1956 but is more than 1 percent lower than the 1958 rate and about 2 percent lower than that for 1957.

The differences in death rates by color have become smaller over the past decade. Among males, a difference of 15 percent (lower for the white group) in 1950 had decreased to a 4 percent difference in 1959. Among females, a difference of 24 percent in 1950 had decreased to 9 percent in 1959.

Over this same period, the difference in the death rate by sex in the white population has remained relatively unchanged. The rates were 36 percent higher for males than for females in 1950 and 37 percent higher in 1959. For the nonwhites, however, the difference has increased. Rates for males were 26 percent higher in 1950 and 30 percent higher in 1959.

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Medicine. *Financial Assistance Available for Graduate Study in Medicine,* just published by the Association of American Medical Colleges, can be purchased for $2.50 from AAMC headquarters, 2530 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Ill. The 1960 revised edition is designed to aid both foreign and North American students seeking graduate and fellowship opportunities primarily in the United States and Canada. It is a comprehensive manual containing information on fellowships, funds, and prizes offered by foundations, professional organizations, federal agencies, and U.S. and Canadian medical schools.

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Silk worms wanted. Hans Laufer, an embryologist and assistant professor of biology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, is seeking the aid of young naturalists and others interested in science in obtaining pupae of giant silk worms for his research. Laufer, who needs the silk worms for cellular dif-