entific Mission, 1800 K Street NW, Washington, D. C. Mr. J. W. Boag, Radiotherapeutic Research Unit, Medical Research Council, U. K., will spend a year working on physical problems in radiology with Dr. U. Fano at NBS. Miss E. J. Hanson, Biophysics Research Unit, Medical Research Council, U. K., is spending a year here under a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship and is to work with K. R. Porter of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research from August 1953 to February 1954.

Miscellany

The President's proposal for reorganizing the Department of Defense, made public on April 30th, calls for the abolition of the Department's Research and Development Board and for the transfer of its functions to the Secretary of Defense. Terming the organizational arrangement of the RDB "too slow and too clumsy" to serve as an effective management tool for the Secretary, President Eisenhower indicated that its functions would ultimately be assigned to one of several new Assistant Secretaries of Defense to be appointed to the Department. "The abolition of the present statutory staff agencies," the President said, "and the provision of the new Assistant Secretaries to aid the Secretary of Defense will be the key to the attainment of increased effectiveness at low cost in the Department of Defense."

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, in an appearance before a Senate appropriations subcommittee on June 8th, was questioned on the adequacy of funds for research under the Administration's program for reducing the amount of new Air Force appropriations by five billion dollars. Mr. Wilson was reported to have observed that if the U. S. still lags behind in jet planes, it was the fault of the previous Democratic administration because "pitifully little" was spent on research in the late 1940's and in the spring of 1950. Mr. Wilson was variously quoted by the press as saying that "research" covered a multitude of stupid projects and that he was cutting funds for "pure" research, as commenting that "the scientists talk a lot about pure research", and as recalling that former General Motors official Charles F. Kettering had his own definition for pure science: if successful, it could not be of any possible use to the people who put up the money for it—that made it pure. Mr. Wilson was further quoted as remarking, "I am not interested, as a military project, in why potatoes turn brown when they are fried". and, upon being asked to select a rather more appropriate field of research in which results were unpromising, as mentioning the case of the atomic-powered aircraft where "If everything worked out as the scientists planned, it would have been a bum airplane".

Funds for military research and development are to be reduced by another twenty-five percent in addition to cuts already made in the Truman recommendations for the 1954 fiscal year. Mr. Truman had asked for a Defense Department research appropriation of $1.6 billion, which was later reduced to $1.3 billion in President Eisenhower's recommendation to Congress. New orders issued to the armed services by Mr. Wilson in June call for a revised figure of $975 million, of which no more than half is to be spent during the first six months of the fiscal year beginning July 1st. Each of the military services has been required to submit lists of its expendable and its nonexpendable research projects to the Secretary.

Atomic Energy Commissioner Henry D. Smyth, in a commencement address prepared for delivery at Case Institute of Technology on June 4th, discussed some of the modern relationships between science, industry, and Government. "Today," he said, "progress in many of our largest industries is directly dependent upon the work of engineers and scientists either in industrial research laboratories or in universities. The scientist in his laboratory has replaced the inventor in his workshop as the primary source of technological development. This trend has certainly been accentuated by two world wars with their tremendous emphasis on advancing the technology of war regardless of expense, but I believe the trend was already there and will continue. The disappearance of the gap between the research laboratory and the application of science to industry means that the successful industrial leaders of the future must understand engineering and scientific methods, preferably from training in one of these disciplines." As an outstanding example of the narrowing gap between scientific discoveries and their industrial applications, he pointed to the atomic energy industry which, he said, "has developed from ideas and experiments in physics laboratories in 1939 until in 1953, only fourteen years later, it is an industry larger—at least in plant investment—than U. S. Steel and General Motors combined."

National Science Foundation prospects for the next fiscal year appear brighter than ever before, even though the $15 million NSF appropriation requested by the previous administration was cut to about $12 million in the Budget Bureau's report. The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee has approved $5.7 million and the Senate Committee has called for $10 million. A compromise figure promises to be nearly twice as large as the $4.75 million authorized for current NSF operations. Identical bills (S. 977 and H. R. 4689) have been introduced in both Senate and House to raise the limit of $15 million allowed under the National Science Foundation Act.

Notes from Abroad

Construction of a nuclear reactor by the West German chemical industries in cooperation with the Bonn Government has been urged by W. A. Menne, president of the Association of Chemical Industries, according to a dispatch to *The New York Times* datelined April 29th. Claiming that more than two hundred