



Walter R. G. Baker

PRESIDENT-ELECT, 1947

Walter R. G. Baker (A'19-F'28) was born in Lockport, New York, in 1890. He graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, receiving the degree of bachelor of electrical engineering in 1916, and the degree of master of electrical engineering in 1918. In 1935, the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon him by Union College.

Beginning his career in the laboratories of the General Electric Company, Dr. Baker, during 1917 and 1918, took a prominent part in the development of wartime radio, including developmental work and testing of transmitting and receiving apparatus for the government. With the establishment of a separate radio department, he was made designing engineer in charge of transmitters. In 1924, this responsibility was enlarged to include design of all radio products, and in 1926 he was given complete charge of radio development, design, and production. Under his supervision, the broadcast transmitters of WGY, KGO, and KOA were designed, and the South Schenectady developmental laboratory was planned and built. He was also responsible for an extensive investigation of short-wave propagation. Upon the formation of the RCA Victor Corporation in 1929, Dr. Baker went to Camden, New Jersey, to head the radio engineering activities. He was later placed in charge of production, and subsequently became vice-president and general manager. When General Electric resumed radio production activities in 1935, Dr. Baker returned to the company as managing engineer of radio receiver activities in Bridgeport, Connecticut. In 1939, he became manager of the radio and television work in both the Schenectady and Bridgeport plants, and in 1941 he was made vice-president of the newly formed electronics department.

Dr. Baker is a member of the Board of Directors of The Institute of Radio Engineers; director of the engineering department of the Radio Manufacturers Association; member of the Board of Trustees of Union College; member of the Board of Governors of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association; chairman of the Electronics Committee of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers; and a member of the Newcomen Society. Dr. Baker served as chairman of the National Television Systems Committee, and as the first chairman of the Radio Technical Planning Board.