

GENERAL SCIENCE

# Science Service Backs Science Clubs Movement



## Science Clubs of America To Include Junior as Well as Adult Groups

**A** NATIONAL science activity, Science Clubs of America, is being sponsored by Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science, which publishes the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

In every locality throughout the nation there will be groups active in various fields of science.

Science Clubs in high schools will be encouraged and given the opportunity to join in the national movement and enter into national activities.

Groups of enthusiastic amateurs in science—grinding telescope mirrors, collecting insects, breeding new plants, collecting minerals, or pursuing scores of other interesting avocations—will join in this important development.

Members of Science Clubs of America will be of all ages. Youth or age is no bar to participation.

### 800 Clubs as Nucleus

As the nucleus of Science Clubs of America, sponsored by Science Service, there are over 800 junior science clubs which were organized during the past 14 years by the American Institute of the City of New York. These clubs are located not only in the United States but also in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippines, British West Indies, Alaska, Canada and even Portugal.

Science Service joins the American Institute of the City of New York, an in-

stitution chartered in 1828, in developing the science clubs movement. Science Service will sponsor Science Clubs of America as the national science clubs movement. The American Institute will continue to foster junior science clubs and related activities in the State of New York and the metropolitan area of New York City.

An advisory committee on Science Clubs of America, representing jointly the American Institute and Science Service, is being formed.

In developing this broad science clubs movement, there will be enlisted the enthusiasm, support, and participation of newspapers, museums, schools, and other scientific and educational institutions, including professional scientific societies and industrial organizations.

### Local "Science Centers"

In various regions there will be developed additional "science centers" which, on a regional or local basis, will further coordinate and aid the science clubs in their vicinities as a supplement to the national organization.

In simultaneous communications to sponsors of existing science clubs, Dr. H. C. Parmelee, president of the American Institute, and Watson Davis, director of Science Service, have announced the new plan.

"About 14 years ago," Dr. Parmelee said, "when The American Institute was rounding out 100 years of service to American industry, the leaders of this century-old organization launched a wholly modern activity that was, nevertheless, in harmony with the oldest and finest traditions of the Institute. They started a program to encourage and develop an interest in science among the youth of the metropolitan area of New York City. That movement shortly resulted in the organization of about 200 Junior Science Clubs, a Junior Science Fair, and a Junior Science Congress.

"Attracted by the success of the local movement, and believing firmly in the value of scientific knowledge and training among the youth of the country, the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing

Company placed at the disposal of the Institute means for extending the Junior Science Club movement and related activities throughout the United States. The program met with unparalleled success and resulted in the organization of over 800 clubs. Indeed, the movement expanded beyond the present capacity of the Institute to service all of the Clubs and foster their related activities.

"At this juncture Science Service, an institution for the popularization of science, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., and excellent national contacts and affiliations, proposed to the Institute a division of responsibility in the Junior Science Program.

"Speaking for The American Institute, I commend the joint plan as a step in the achievement of common objectives; and I believe that both working together can accomplish more than each separately."

### Great Service to Youth

"The work that you are doing in inspiring and directing a science club is one of the great services to American youth," Mr. Davis told the sponsors. "In order that we may have a continuance of our democratic civilization based on scientific principles, it is essential that such endeavors as yours shall be given the fullest possible support and that other leaders of youth follow your example.

"It is in this spirit that Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science, joins its forces with those of The American Institute in continuing, extending and developing the science club movement."

Science Clubs of America will have a regular broadcast period on the international broadcast station WRUL, Boston, on Mondays at 9:30 p.m. EST on 6.04 and 11.73 megacycles, beginning Oct. 6. Anyone having a shortwave receiver is invited to listen in.

Those interested in cooperating in Science Clubs of America, particularly science teachers, will be sent details if they send a postal card to Science Service, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., requesting Science Clubs of America information.

*Science News Letter, September 27, 1941*

The Soviet Union's largest *automobile plant* is at Gorkii, formerly known as Nizhni-Novgorod.

The average *adult male* of western Europe is usually said to weigh 155 pounds, whereas the average in south-east Asia is about 110 pounds.

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