

GENERAL SCIENCE

NAS Elects New Members

Eminent Mexican scientist and five British citizens honored by election to Foreign Associateship. Americans honored from all the sciences.

► ONE OF Mexico's most eminent scientists, Dr. Alfonso Caso, of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City, was elected a Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Sciences at that body's recent spring business meeting in Washington, D. C. This is the highest honor which this "Senate of the Sciences" can bestow upon a person who is not a U. S. citizen.

Dr. Caso, who is at present at the University of Chicago as Visiting Professor from the University of Mexico, received widespread notice several years ago when he discovered the famous tomb treasure of Monte Alban, a find which has been likened for both richness and scientific importance with the tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen in Egypt. He has long made a special study of the culture of the ancient Zapotec people in Mexico.

Five other scientists, all citizens of the British Commonwealth of Nations, were elected to Foreign Associateship in the Academy along with Dr. Caso. There is one Afrikander, Prof. Hendrik Johannes Van Der Bijl of the University of Pretoria, engineer; one Scot, Sir

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson of the University of St. Andrews, physicist; and three Englishmen, Dr. Harold Spencer Jones of the Royal Observatory, astronomer; Prof. Charles Richard Vynne Southwell of Brasenose College, Oxford University, engineer; and Prof. Charles Edward Spearman of the University of London, psychologist.

Twenty-six members, representing the whole sweep of American science, were elected into the Academy: Dr. L. H. Adams, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, geophysics; Dr. A. Adrian Albert, University of Chicago, mathematics; Dr. J. W. Beams, University of Virginia, physics; Dr. A. F. Buddington, Princeton University, geology; Dr. Leonard Carmichael, Tufts College, psychology; Dr. W. H. Chandler, University of California at Los Angeles, botany; Dr. E. J. Cohn, Harvard Medical School, biochemistry; Dr. J. N. Couch, University of North Carolina, botany; Dr. Theodosius Dobzhansky, Columbia University, zoology; Dr. Lee A. DuBridge,

University of Rochester, physics; Dr. L. C. Dunn, Columbia University, zoology; Dr. Wallace Fenn, University of Rochester, physiology; Dr. Paul D. Foote, Gulf Research and Development Company, physics; Dr. L. P. Hammett, Columbia University, chemistry; Dr. William Houston, California Institute of Technology, physics; Dr. Walter P. Kelley, California Citrus Experiment Station, chemistry; Dr. Warfield T. Longcope, Johns Hopkins University, medicine; Dr. E. K. Marshall, Jr., Johns Hopkins Medical School, physiology; Dr. Leonor Michaelis, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, physical chemistry; Dr. C. G. Rossby, University of Chicago, meteorology; Dr. Calvin P. Stone, Stanford University, psychology; Dr. C. V. Taylor, Stanford University, biology; Dr. H. B. Vickery, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, biochemistry; Dr. V. K. Zworykin, RCA Manufacturing Company, physics; Dr. O. H. Robertson, University of Chicago, medicine; Dr. W. Albert Noyes, Jr., University of Rochester, chemistry.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Can You Remember How Telephone Dial Looks?

► DON'T look now, but can you remember what your telephone dial looks like? Draw from memory the telephone dial. If it is accurate, you are one person in ten.

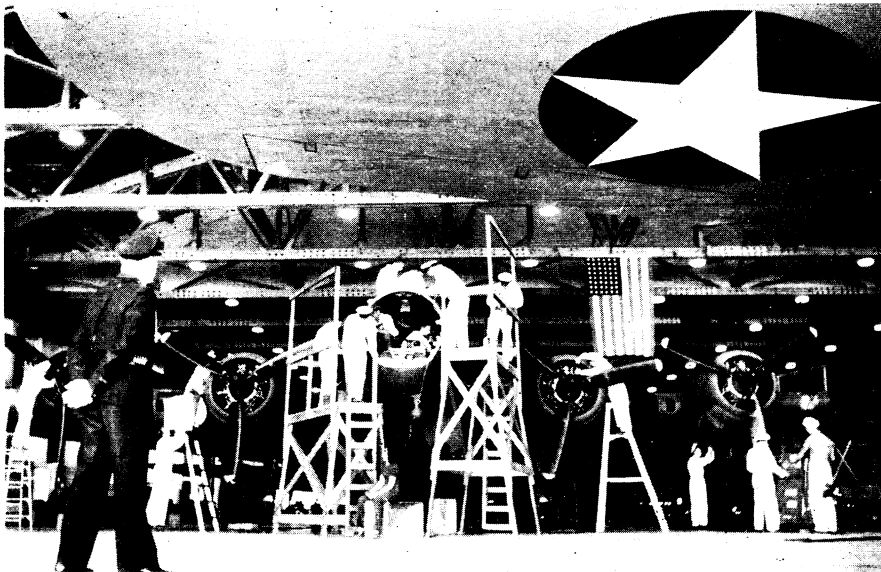
Busy New Yorkers dialing 20 times a day flunked this psychological test in this ratio, Dr. Martin Scheerer, of City College, New York, told the Eastern Psychological Association meeting in New York.

(Don't read farther until you have finished your dial drawing.)

Nearly half the college students tested by Dr. Scheerer included in their reproductions of the dial the letter Q which is actually not on the dial. More than half were wrong in giving the color of the numbers (red is the color). Only 20% were mistaken about the color of the letters (they are black). Seven out of ten knew a most frequently dialed telephone number, but only about five out of a hundred could make use of that knowledge in placing specific numbers or letters correctly.

Recalling a familiar object like the telephone dial is not based on specific itemized retention, Dr. Scheerer concluded, but rather on general factors of reconstruction and organization.

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FITTING FOR COMBAT—Four-engined bombers are given last-minute changes not possible on the assembly lines at this modification center of the United Air Lines at Cheyenne, Wyoming. United is one of a number of airlines and aircraft factories operating such modification centers for putting last-minute alterations on standard mass-produced planes.