

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# Draft Rejection Causes

**Leading reasons for deferment among 18 and 19 year olds are eye defects, mental disease among whites; educational defects, syphilis among Negroes.**

►THE LEADING causes of draft rejections among a sample of 18 and 19 year olds are reported by Col. Leonard G. Rowntree, Kenneth H. McGill and Dr. Thomas I. Edwards, of national headquarters of the Selective Service System (*Journal, American Medical Association, Sept. 25*).

For white youths in the sample group, the leading causes of rejection during December, 1942, and January and February, 1943, were, in decreasing order of occurrence: eye defects, mental disease, musculoskeletal defects, heart and blood vessel defects, ear defects, hernia, neurologic defects, educational deficiency, underweight and mental deficiency.

For Negroes during the same period the 10 leading rejection causes were: educational deficiency, syphilis, heart and blood vessel defects, mental disease, musculoskeletal defects, hernia, eye defects, neurologic defects, mental deficiency and tuberculosis.

Of the white youths called up for physical examination, 23.8% were rejected at local boards or induction stations. The rate was almost twice as high for Negroes: 45.5%. The rates are only slightly lower than for older regis-

trants but, the Selective Service officials point out, one should be cautious in drawing conclusions from this. Large numbers of physically fit 18 and 19 year olds entered the armed forces by enlistment, and the Selective Service figures do not cover findings on these youths. An additional number are in schools or colleges and their examinations postponed until after this training period. Still others are deferred because of employment in war industry or agriculture.

Comparison of rejection causes between the 18 and 19 year olds and the older men called up previously cannot be made very readily because standards for eyes, teeth and educational qualifications have been revised and increased attention given to psychiatric examination.

Between November, 1940, and May, 1941, the 10 leading causes of rejection for white and Negroes combined, aged 21 to 36, were: teeth, eyes, heart and blood vessel defects, musculoskeletal defects, mental and nervous defects, hernia, ears, feet and tuberculosis and other lung defects.

*Science News Letter, October 2, 1943*

secutive crop of wheat. Other plots have carried other consecutive crops for many years.

The chemistry of farm animal feeding also received early attention at Rothamsted. Animals were fed special diets over specified periods, were then slaughtered, and their body contents analyzed chemically. This early work established the basis for all the later qualitative studies of animal nutrition.

Rothamsted's work today includes all branches of scientific agriculture. Its main objective remains the objective set by its founder. As stated by the British Council: "This purpose of gaining knowledge, of developing a subject that experts can use, and of providing basic information for teachers, farmers, inventors, and all interested, has always been uppermost at Rothamsted."

Sir John Lawes started the Rothamsted station on his own inherited estate. He used his lands even before creating the research center for farm demonstration work. Whether or not the idea of this work and the establishment of a scientific station originated with him is not certain. Others had proposed similar undertakings at an earlier date. Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, the great eighteenth-century French scientist, who was born just 100 years previous to the establishment of Rothamsted, started a model farm in 1778, and in 1785, while secretary of the French Committee on Agriculture, he recommended the establishment of agricultural experiment stations.

In the United States the first agricultural experiment station with state support was the Connecticut station, established in 1875. By 1887 there were 18 stations although some had only meager support. In that year Congress passed the far-reaching Hatch Act which gave Federal financial assistance for experiment stations connected with all the land-grant state agricultural colleges established under the well-known Land Grant Act of 1862.

*Science News Letter, October 2, 1943*

## AGRICULTURE

# 100 Years in Research

**Famous Rothamsted, reputed to be oldest agricultural experiment station in the world, is celebrating its centennial despite the war.**

► ONE HUNDRED years old this year, the famous Rothamsted Agricultural Experimental Station, located at Harpenden, England, is now celebrating its centennial in spite of the war. It is reputed to be the oldest agricultural research institution in the world.

The founder of the research station, Sir John Bennet Lawes, remained its active director until his death in 1900. Sir Joseph Henry Gilbert, a chemist, was associated with him during these 57 years. He died in 1901.

When the station was established,

chemistry was thought to be the only science that seemed to bear on agriculture. For that reason first emphasis was placed on chemical problems having to do largely with the feeding of plant life, and out of it came the creation of what were then called artificial fertilizers.

To carry out the work of making satisfactory artificial fertilizers, and to test the compounds and mixtures made, experimental plots were established and the new fertilizers tried on various crops. The famous wheat plots on Broadbalk carried this year their hundredth con-

## GENERAL SCIENCE

## Science Interchanges With Mexico Praised

► SCIENCE is one of the finest mediums to promote friendship between Mexico and the United States in the opinion of Nelson Rockefeller, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, expressed during his visit to Mexico City.

*Science News Letter, October 2, 1943*