

GENERAL SCIENCE

Top Science Scholarships

Youngest of the finalists, Andrew Kende, improves industrial reagent while his co-winner, Barbara Wolff, studies changes in fruit flies.

See Front Cover

➤ GREATER safety for workers in chemical factories may result from original research by a 15-year-old high school student, Andrew S. Kende of Evanston, Ill., who received one of two \$2,400 scholarship awards at the close of the Seventh Annual Science Talent Search in Washington, D. C.

Recipient of the other grand prize scholarship was Barbara C. Wolff, 17, senior in Forest Hills (N. Y.) High School. Her research project was the study of phenocopies in fruit flies. These are changes in body shape and color resembling mutations, but are produced by environmental influences and are good for one generation only.

Mr. Kende was using, in some of his chemical work, what is known as a Grignard reagent. This is dangerous both to use and to make because its principal ingredients are ether and magnesium—both highly inflammable. Despite their dangerous nature, Grignard reagents are widely used in industry today.

He searched the literature of chemistry for possible records of a safer material to use. Not finding any, he decided to try to make one himself, using something less flammable than ether. He finally succeeded in making workable Grignard reagents with not only one, but three, possible substitutes for the dangerous ether.

Mr. Kende and Miss Wolff, shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, are two of the 40 winners of the Science Talent Search who have spent five days at the Science Talent Institute conducted by Science Clubs of America, with funds supplied by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation. At the concluding banquet, when their choice as recipients of the two top prizes was announced, \$6,200 in additional Westinghouse Science Scholarships was dis-

tributed among the other 38 contestants.

For all the mental brilliance that has won early distinction for them, these students are not the pale-faced bluestockings that young scholars are sometimes depicted. Miss Wolff is editor of her high school paper, and her club memberships include groups interested in mathematics, microscopy, badminton and cancer research. She likes classical music and modern dancing. Mr. Kende, who is the youngest of the 40 finalists in this year's Science Talent Search, will graduate from high school in three years, by dint of attending summer school straight through. Although his chief interest is in chemistry, his hobbies take a natural-history bent; his outdoor interests include minerals, insects and reptiles.

Science News Letter, March 13, 1948

GENERAL SCIENCE

Winners of Westinghouse Science Scholarships

GRAND SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$2,400

Wolff, Barbara Claire, Forest Hills High School, Forest Hills, N. Y.
Kende, Andrew Steven, Evanston Township High School, Evanston, Ill.

ALTERNATES

Maurer, Laura Caroline, South Side High School, Rockville Centre, N. Y.
Kohn, Kurt William, Bronx High School of Science, New York, N. Y.

SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$400

Maurer, Laura Caroline, South Side High School, Rockville Centre, N. Y.
Alexeff, Igor, Mt. Lebanon High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Baraff, Gene Allen, Forest Hills High School, Forest Hills, N. Y.
Howett, Gerald Leonard, Abraham Lincoln High School, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Johnston, Alan Robert, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, Calif.
Kohn, Kurt William, Bronx High School of Science, New York, N. Y.
LeSchack, Alan Richard, Stuyvesant High School, New York, N. Y.
Rayna, Gerhard, Stuyvesant High School, New York, N. Y.

Rigal, R. Daniel, Liberty Center Village High School, Liberty Center, Ohio
Yphantis, David Andrew, Public Latin School, Boston, Mass.

ALTERNATES

Zisk, Stanley Harris, Public Latin School, Boston, Mass.
Geller, David Melville, Oak Park Township High School, Oak Park, Ill.
Schaad, Lawrence Joseph, Logan High School, Logan, Ohio

SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$100

Blumenheim, Ursel Joyce, Forest Hills High School, Forest Hills, N. Y.
Childress, Patricia Lee, Alexander Hamilton High School, Los Angeles, Calif.
Decker, Charlotte Elizabeth, Senn High School, Chicago, Ill.
Gilbert, Marjorie Ann, Brodhead High School, Brodhead, Wis.
Rowe, Nancy Jean, Lincoln High School, Canton, Ohio
Sawyer, Millicent Margaret, Wiley High School, Terre Haute, Ind.
Berry, Richard Stephen, East High School, Denver, Colo.
Breslow, Ronald Charles, Rahway High School, Rahway, N. J.
Camamis, George, New Brunswick Senior High School, New Brunswick, N. J.
Coe, Elmon Lee, North Phoenix High School, Phoenix, Ariz.
Dibble, William Edwin, Herbert Hoover High School, Glendale, Calif.
Geller, David Melville, Oak Park Township High School, Oak Park, Ill.
Jamieson, John Burgess, Sewanhaka High School, Floral Park, N. Y.
Koehler, George Edgar, West High School, Madison, Wis.
Lubin, Michael David, Tottenville High School, Staten Island, N. Y.
Martin, Paul, Stuyvesant High School, New York, N. Y.
Mazo, Robert Marc, Flushing High School, Flushing, N. Y.
Miller, Jerry Blair, Lincoln High School, Canton, Ohio
Peacock, Roy Norman, Springfield Union High School, Springfield, Ore.
Poindexter, Edward Haviland, J. W. Sexton High School, Lansing, Mich.
Richardson, James Wyman, Washington High School, Sioux Falls, S. D.
Rodemich, Eugene Richard, Beaumont High School, St. Louis, Mo.
Schaad, Lawrence Joseph, Logan High School, Logan, Ohio
Scheider, Walter Julius, Bronx High School of Science, New York, N. Y.
Shlichta, Paul Joseph, Brooklyn Preparatory School, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Teager, Herbert Martin, Midwood High School, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Wilcox, Charles Frederick, Jr., Greenwich High School, Greenwich, Conn.
Zisk, Stanley Harris, Public Latin School, Boston, Mass.

Science News Letter, March 13, 1948

TOP TEN—Left to right: Kurt William Kohn, alternate boy for the top scholarship; the group visits experimental greenhouses of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Md.; Laura Caroline Maurer, alternate girl for the \$2,400 scholarship. The top winners are congratulated by Watson Davis and Dr. W. W. Waymack. Some of the group are shown talking with Dr. I. I. Rabi. Winners of \$400 scholarships are: Igor Alexeff, Gene Allen Baraff, Gerald Leonard Howett, Alan Robert Johnston, Alan Richard LeSchack, Gerhard Rayna, R. Daniel Rigal, and David Andrew Yphantis.