

chemistry are projects planned for this cyclotron.

After a gigantic moving job during which the 80-ton machine was transferred to Los Angeles from the Berkeley campus, the cyclotron was completely overhauled and refurbished under the direction of two well-known young nuclear physicists who cut their scientific

teeth on this instrument and who accompanied it on the long haul from Berkeley. It is housed in a new \$75,000 temporary building constructed especially for this purpose on the Los Angeles campus.

In charge of the work is Dr. J. Reginald Richardson, associate professor of physics at U. C. L. A.

*Science News Letter, June 19, 1948*

GENERAL SCIENCE

## Questionnaire Censorship

► THE civilian Research and Development Board and the Departments of the Army and the Navy were accused of attempting "to prevent scientists from finding out just where they stand on security matters."

The charge was made in a report by the Committee on Secrecy and Clearance of the Federation of American Scientists in Washington. Members of the committee are all Cornell University scientists.

They sent a questionnaire to 140 laboratories last fall seeking information on loyalty clearance of scientists. Forty percent of the laboratories, including the atomic bomb laboratory at Los Alamos, N. Mex., answered the questions. But some officers of the Navy and the Army and an official of the Research and Development Board tried to obstruct the investigation, the committee declared in its report published in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* in Chicago.

A memorandum from F. H. Richardson, deputy executive secretary of the Research and Development Board headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush, to expert consultants of the Board was termed "intolerable" by the Federation committee.

The memorandum reprinted in the report does not mention the committee's questionnaire specifically. It calls attention to questionnaires concerning clearance procedures and requests that they be sent to the Board before they are answered.

A portion of the Board memorandum declares:

"There are in existence today a large number of organizations whose objective is to gather such information and later use it as material for propaganda and 'smear' programs in an attempt to discredit the U. S. form of government."

Commenting on the memorandum, the Federation of American Scientists report contended that "It operates wholly by innuendo, naming no names, citing no questions."

The Research and Development Board, the committee found, "has apparently at least some policy-making employees more military than the military."

Both Army and Navy officials were reported to have warned laboratories against answering the committee's questionnaire.

An inquiry by the committee to the office of Rear Adm. Thomas B. Inglis, Chief of Naval Intelligence, asked which of the questions on the questionnaire were classified.

"I regret to inform you that I am unable to supply you with the information requested," the report quotes Adm. Inglis as answering.

"We have told the story of the response to our questionnaire as a sign of 'the Prussian disease'," the committee of scientists concluded.

The report explains that the term "Prussian disease", which has been used by Dr. Albert Einstein, includes "gradual encroachment upon the rights of scientists as citizens, and upon their freedom as scholars, the suppression of criticism, and the establishment of the official one-track mind . . ."

This report was the second made by the Federation's Committee on Secrecy and Clearance, which several weeks ago criticized loyalty clearance procedures. Members of the committee include a leading atomic scientist, Dr. Hans A. Bethe, and a Nobel prize winner, Dr. P. J. W. Debye, chairman of the department of chemistry at Cornell. Dr. S. H. Bauer is chairman of the group which includes Drs. L. M. Brown, G. K. Fraenkel, A. R. Moore, Philip Morrison, R. S. Rochlin and R. R. Wilson.

*Science News Letter, June 19, 1948*

Products made with lard, such as potato chips, pastries and crackers, are kept in good condition much longer by use of a new antioxidant; the same preparation also greatly increases the keeping time of lard itself.

ORNITHOLOGY

## Gulls Shown as Robbers Of Other Birds' Nests

► GULLS as birds of prey, taking eggs from the nests of other birds and killing their young, as well as field mice, ground squirrels and other small mammals, make an unusual picture of these white-winged water-fowl presented in *The Condor* (May-June) by Dr. Arthur C. Twomey of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.

Presence of other birds' eggs in the nests of California gulls has puzzled other observers; but Dr. Twomey states that they are stolen and carried off for food. Sometimes the gulls carry them in

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