

MEDICINE

Hunt Mice To Aid Cancer

➤ A WILD mouse hunt, to aid the fight against cancer, will soon be on in cities and villages all over the nation. The mouse hunters will be the quarter of a million high school boys and girls who are members of Science Clubs of America, sponsored by Science Service.

When they have found the mice, the high school students will breed and study them in cooperative research with the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me., world famous center of cancer study and mouse breeding for scientific research.

The wild mouse research project will contribute directly and importantly to the discovery of new scientific facts about cancer, Dr. Clarence C. Little, Jackson Laboratory director, declared.

The project is being organized by Dr. Little, Watson Davis, director of Science Service, and Dr. Elizabeth Russell, who is in charge of Jackson Laboratory's inbred strains of mice that are the backbone of scientific and medical research throughout the country.

This new pioneer project should prove both exciting and fruitful, judging from experiences with previous cooperative projects

the young people in Science Clubs have carried on with the U. S. Weather Bureau and other national institutions.

"The students," Mr. Davis said, "will have fun doing it and at the same time will be learning actual techniques that will prepare them for work as research scientists in later life. They will have the satisfaction of making a positive contribution of lasting value to science."

The grasshopper mouse, the red backed mouse (a forest type), the jumping mouse, the harvest mouse and the lemming mouse are among the 13 genera the high school boys and girls will hunt. None of them has been of any use to man and ordinarily they are considered pests. Information about cancer in them is practically unknown to the scientific world.

"This search for new animal material," Dr. Little said, "will constitute the first cooperative attack between a scientific research laboratory and high school students on problems of cancer research."

"The work being undertaken is not being duplicated anywhere," he explained. "The students will not be engaged in routine confirmation of known facts but in actual exploration into a field not now covered."

The Jackson Laboratory will provide instructions for trapping, information on food and life habits, data on recognition of interesting variations in form and color, as well as directions on how to recognize external cancer in living specimens or to diagnose it at autopsy.

The students will not be in any danger of getting cancer as a result of taking part in the project. Dr. Little emphasized that the project is absolutely safe, provided instructions are followed.

The project is open to any member group of Science Clubs of America. Groups of students not affiliated but wishing to take part, may get complete details about joining at no cost by writing to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Science News Letter, October 1, 1949

ENGINEERING

Portable Transformer Stand-In for Damaged Ones

➤ A PORTABLE transformer of high capacity is to be available for temporary use at sites where needed in Portland, Ore., and at Seattle. It will be kept mounted on a railroad car, ready for immediate transfer to a point where a permanent transformer is in need of repair.

This transformer, a device to cut high voltage to the strengths more ordinarily used in distribution lines, will be constructed by Westinghouse Electric Corpora-

tion and is for use of the U. S. Bonneville Power Administration. It will take a current of 230,000 volts and cut it to 115,000 or 57,000 and 13,200 volts, and will be ready for delivery in 1951.

Science News Letter, October 1, 1949

Words in Science— FROST-RIME

➤ FROST and rime are both feathery, white formations on objects in the winter landscapes. But they are not the same thing.

Frost forms when moisture in the air passes directly from the gaseous to the solid state and forms ice crystals on a cold surface. It is not frozen dew, which is moisture that has condensed into liquid on contact with a cool surface. The frost does not pass through the liquid state at all but forms ice directly. The same process that causes dew and frost causes the "sweating" of ice water glasses on a hot summer day.

Rime is formed from freezing fog or mist and is deposited on the windward side of objects. Rime may form either by day or by night.

Science News Letter, October 1, 1949

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