

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Asks Halt in Weapon Work

➤ AN AMERICAN physicist, who worked at Oak Ridge, Tenn., on the A-bomb during the war, has called upon all scientists to stop new theoretical work which would result in new weapons in the future.

Now Fulbright Exchange Professor at the University of Edinburgh, Dr. Edward M. Corson, Chicago, declared in a letter in *PHYSICS TODAY* (March), the publication of the American Institute of Physics, that the scientists, "obviously cannot now restrain, by our convictions, the use of known weapons; this is part of history, and now merely nuclear technology. But there are far worse (theoretical) possibilities which, if ever realized, might well rend our planet."

Dr. Corson called upon scientists the world over to use their knowledge and the imminent presence of these new weapons to call a halt. "Use that very fear and ignorance of mean men to a true purpose," he demanded.

Dr. Corson was motivated by the revelations of the Klaus Fuchs case. He stated

that he had known and worked with Fuchs on the A-bomb, that he couldn't believe that Fuchs was guilty when the news first broke, but that now he considers Fuchs a psychotic personality of the kind who "seek mastery over men."

"The one entity," said Dr. Corson, "which nations can neither buy nor build, command nor usurp, is intellect, on which will depend such things as more efficient and horrible bombs as well as the better purpose to which this knowledge can be put."

Admitting that the task he set before the scientists of the world is not simple, he also said that he did not know whether there are among Russian scientists enough men of deep conviction akin to a Christian ethic, for theirs will be the most difficult task of all.

"Yet," he declared, "I call on all scientists, of all creeds and nations, to stop new theoretical work on this monster now."

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

MEDICINE

Glandular Fever Overcome

➤ ADD glandular fever to the list of diseases that are being overcome by aureomycin, the golden yellow mold drug that ranks with penicillin, streptomycin and chloromycetin as top wonder drugs of the year.

In most patients with glandular fever, symptoms disappeared completely within 48 hours, and in some cases symptoms were gone as soon as six hours after aureomycin treatment is started, Drs. Harold A. Lyons and Edward M. Hard, of the U. S. Naval Hospital, St. Albans, L. I., N. Y., found.

At the same time, the temperature returned to normal. And the weakness that follows the acute stage of this disease was considerably less in patients who received

aureomycin. Patients averaged 26 days in the hospital with aureomycin treatment, compared to 39 days on other forms of treatment.

These results, from a study of aureomycin treatment in 18 patients compared with 25 patients on bedrest and treatment of symptoms only, were reported by the Navy doctors to the New York Academy of Medicine.

Glandular fever, known medically as infectious mononucleosis, is an infectious disease of unknown cause. Swollen glands, fever, and sore throat are among the symptoms. The disease is most common in children and young adults, and may occur in epidemics as well as sporadically.

Science News Letter, March 11, 1950

Question Box

GENERAL SCIENCE

The top scholarship winners did their work in what fields? p. 163.

What can politics learn from science? p. 170.

What was the main objective in the visit of the Japanese scientists to the U. S.? p. 169.

Who are some of the top scientists opposing the tight security regulations in the science bill? p. 166.

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NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Who is the American physicist who has asked a halt on all weapons work? p. 164.

ZOOLOGY

What is the clue to the solution of the insect vision problem? p. 164.

What is the method of travel particular to spiders? p. 174.

➔
INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS—
Left to right: Congratulations for the top two from J. Robert Oppenheimer, A. C. Monteith, Watson Davis and Harlow Shapley. Dr. Karl Lark-Horowitz explains the physics of the solid state. Winners question Dr. Earl J. McGrath on "Adventures in Science." Dr. Wolf Karo tells of jet fuel work. \$2,000 alternate, Malcolm Gordon. \$400 winners: Leonore Y. Taylor, Cynthia W. Wyeth, Robert W. Detenbeck, William D. Gunter, Jr., Dennis P. Malone, William J. Reeves, Jr. and William G. Tift.

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