

GENERAL SCIENCE

Many Top Chemists Barred

McCarran Act restrictions kept about a dozen of world's leading chemists from the World Chemical Conclave in New York. Visa applications pile up.

► BECAUSE THEY had not been able to get U. S. visas under the restrictions of the McCarran Act, about a dozen of the world's leading chemists were excluded from the World Chemical Conclave held in New York.

From Italy, France and Switzerland have come cables telling of inability of even official delegates to the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to get into the country, despite the almost frantic efforts of officials of the National Research Council, American Chemical Society and the U. S. Department of State to cut through the mandatory restrictions set up recently by Congress.

Among those who were not present, although their papers were scheduled for the International Chemical Congress program were:

Mlle. Marguerite Perey, French discoverer of the chemical element 87, Francium.

Dr. L. Ruzicka, Nobelist in chemistry and leading Swiss chemist from Zurich.

Prof. Giulio Natta, of Milan's Institute of Industrial Chemistry, member of the official Italian delegation.

Prof. Mario A. Rollier of Milan's Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Francesco Giordani, in charge of the Italian delegation.

The newly amended immigration law makes it mandatory that everyone wishing to enter the United States on a visit shall answer dozens of questions, listing all the organizations to which they have ever belonged. If any of them can be interpreted as Fascist or Communistic in the slightest degree, the visa request must be forwarded by the American Consul to the State Department in Washington.

Consequently visa requests by the thousands have piled up in Washington, requiring weeks to get action, since Congress did not provide funds to handle this extra load at the same time that it imposed the new restrictions.

Because many of the foreign chemists in their fifties have been members of societies now under political suspicion, their visa requests have piled up in Washington. Some have been fished out of the mounting pile and given the approval of the Attorney General that allows them to come into the country. But some have been caught in the jam.

Some eminent, specially invited guests, like Dr. Ruzicka, have given up in disgust. He is reported to have had his visa questioned because he has not resigned a foreign membership of an Iron Curtain science

academy, an honor received before World War II. Dr. Ruzicka, rated as a conservative politically, has been in this country repeatedly and attended the 1933 Chicago International Chemical meeting.

The cloud upon Mlle. Perey is reported to be that she invited Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie to the dedication of her research laboratory about a decade ago.

Dr. Ruzicka and Mlle. Perey were finally given visas but too late for them to attend the meeting. Dr. Ruzicka announced that private reasons prevented his going to the United States and that he had not been requested to renounce any academic membership.

One Sydney chemist, born in Hungary and an Australian citizen for eight years, got the visa for himself and wife only after overseas telephone calls of explanation.

While many of the older chemists from overseas experienced delays and inconveniences over their visas, \$525,000 was being spent by ECA and the Ford Foundation to bring 310 foreign chemists under 40 to attend the meeting and tour America. This goodwill expenditure is felt here to be neutralized to a considerable extent by the visa difficulties the older and more eminent chemists have experienced.

One admitted communist chemist, Dr. Steig Veibel, an official delegate to the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry from Denmark, was refused a visa even though he desired to sign a pledge not to engage in any political activity in this country. Dr. Veibel commented bitterly that if America kept such strict exclusion laws no more international meetings could be held in America and the United States would be in the same class with Russia in this respect.

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PSYCHOLOGY

TV Schools Better But Teachers Cheaper

► YOU CAN go to school by television. In fact you can actually learn more from the instructor on the TV screen than you would if you were face to face with the teacher.

This is the experience of the Navy in teaching Navy Reservists it was reported to the meeting of the American Psychological Association in Chicago by Prof. Robert T. Rock, Jr., of Fordham University, New York, who directed a program of evaluation conducted by Fordham and the Special Devices Section of the Navy.

But college professors need not fear that their jobs will be taken over by television studios, Prof. Rock predicted. Television is expensive—too expensive for the ordinary educational institution, or even for the Armed Services under ordinary conditions. Its main usefulness is for teaching large groups of men when they must be trained in a great hurry and they cannot all be crowded into a single classroom.

Advantage of the television program over the ordinary training film is that the television lesson may be kept up to the minute. The training film takes many months to prepare and in subjects that are changing may be obsolete before it is ready for use. It takes only two days to get the television program ready for the camera and it can be revised up to the last minute.

Television also has the advantage of newness: people like to learn by this medium.

Hollywood techniques of dramatized instruction do not work so well as does the straight lecture method with the screen picking up a view of the machine, part, or object being described, not the face or mouth of the lecturer, Prof. Rock said. Techniques need to be developed and television instructors need to be specially trained to make TV as effective as it could be for education.

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MEDICINE

Cold Spray to Chest Helps Heart Victims

► FASTER TREATMENT for a sick heart can be given if the patient's chest is first given a cold spray of ethyl chloride to stop the excruciating pain of some heart attacks.

In coronary thrombosis, caused by blood clots that block off vital circulation to the heart, severe pain can paralyze the recuperative powers of the heart in the crucial moments after an attack has begun. As a result, physicians in many cases must treat for pain and shock before launching important life-saving measures. The spray, it is believed, would avoid this, and enable physicians to direct immediate attention to the coronary condition.

The cold spray method was developed by Dr. Janet Travell of Cornell University Medical College, Ithaca, N. Y. For further study of this cold spray method of stopping pain, Dr. Travell has received a \$6,000 grant from the U. S. National Heart Institute.

Largest single grant, \$81,000, of the \$3,038,418 announced this week, goes to Dr. John W. Gofman of the University of California at Berkeley for further study of biochemical and biophysical factors in the development of hardening of the arteries. Dr. Gofman is the originator of the controversial low-cholesterol diet which he believes will ward off or slow down artery hardening.

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