

GENERAL SCIENCE

Colleges Can Handle GI'S

Statement that fewer students would be deferred next year because otherwise colleges would not have room for returning veterans is vigorously disputed.

►INDUSTRIALISTS AND educators have vigorously disputed the contention of a high Selective Service official that college draft deferments must be cut down to make room in schools for GI's returning from Korea.

They did so after Col. D. Joel Griffing, representing Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service director, told a meeting of 500 engineers in Chicago, "There will be fewer students deferred from the draft next year."

He gave as his reason the need for making room for returning veterans of the Korean War who want to take advantage of the educational privileges of the new GI Bill of Rights.

Dr. Arthur S. Adams, president of the American Council on Education, estimating that only about 100,000 new veterans would enter college in the fall of 1953, said this would only bring college enrollment partially up to the peak year of 1947-48. He said there would be plenty of room for all of them plus the draft-deferred students. There are, at present, 207,000 college students deferred.

Col. Griffing, pointing to manpower figures, said the armed forces would soon need every physically eligible man turning 19 each year. He said about 1,200,000 men reach that age every year, but that only 60% to 70% of them are fit for service. If we are to keep up an armed force of 3,600,000, he said, all of these would have to be drafted.

Dr. M. H. Trytten, adviser to Gen. Hershey and the man responsible for the present college deferment system, said that this would be contrary to the policy set forth by Congress when it passed the present selective service legislation. He said Congress recognized the need to the nation's defense of having some serve in uniform and some serve in essential occupations.

Dr. Trytten also said that a reduction in the number deferred for college was under consideration and that, in all likelihood, this would be done before next fall. The passing mark on the college deferment examination would be raised, he said, and there would be 5,000 less students deferred for each point the passing mark is raised over the present mark of 70.

Dr. A. C. Monteith, vice-president of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, said that any policy that would strip industry of engineers would subvert the long-range defense program of the nation as presently constituted. He pointed out that an effort is being made to keep industry going at as high a rate as possible, and that only by

doing this can the defense effort be paid for. Engineers and scientists are essential to this policy, he declared.

The statements were made at a meeting of the Engineering Manpower Commission of the Engineers Joint Council. The commission recommended that more attention be paid to building the nation's productive potential as being of far more importance for the defense of the nation than the build-up of military forces in time of partial mobilization. Advisory service to local and state selective boards with respect to professional and specialized persons was also recommended.

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RADIO ASTRONOMY

Radio Telescope Scans Space at 250 Megacycles

See Front Cover

►THE RADIO telescope shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER was used in a just-completed first survey of radio waves coming from space at a frequency of 250 megacycles. Not only was the flat-disk-like form of the Milky Way galaxy recorded, but structures interpreted as its spiral arms were found, Dr. John D. Kraus, director of the radio observatory at Ohio State University, reports.

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ASTRONOMY

Over 400 Astronomers See Vatican Observatory

►VATICAN OBSERVATORY, one of the best-equipped astronomical institutions in Europe, was recently visited by over 400 astronomers from all over the world.

They were members of the International Astronomical Union meeting in Rome, and journeyed to the Pope's summer residence, Castel Gandolfo, where the observatory is located. Of particular interest were the spectroscopic laboratories, with equipment of advanced and modern design.

New director of the observatory is Father Daniel J. O'Connell, who for many years has been director of Riverview Observatory in Sydney, Australia. Father O'Connell, whose astronomical education is international, spent a year once at Harvard College Observatory specializing in variable star research. Thus he was particularly glad to welcome Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of

Harvard College Observatory, and others from Harvard to his new observatory.

Highly important atlases of the spectra of the chemical elements have been produced at the Vatican Observatory. With the addition of much valuable equipment within recent years, and a Schmidt telescope in the making, significant research will undoubtedly continue to come from the Vatican Observatory.

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MARINE BIOLOGY

Porpoises May Have Their Own Sonar Device

►WHALES AND porpoises may have used sonar, location of objects by submarine sound echoes, long before it was developed by man for war use.

Drs. W. N. Kellogg and Robert Kohler of the Florida State University's Oceanographic Institute, Tallahassee, report in *Science* (Sept. 5) that they have tested the hearing of porpoises, and find that the animals can hear sounds approximately 30,000 cycles per second beyond the range of human ears. They may also produce ultrasonic vibrations that allow them to navigate at night and in murky waters, as they are known to do, by bouncing ultrasonic echoes off obstructions.

Bats are known to use extremely high pitched sounds that they emit to locate by echoes objects that might interfere with their flight.

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DENTISTRY

Gum Disease Curable, Preventing Loss of Teeth

►DISEASES OF the gums can be cured, Dr. Samuel Charles Miller of New York University College of Dentistry reported at the meeting of the American Dental Association in St. Louis.

Loose teeth can in most cases be tightened, "pus pockets" can be eliminated, gums can be restored to normal, firm pinkness, and chewing can be made comfortable again.

This should be good news, especially for about half the men and boys in the country. One out of every two by the time he is 45 years old will, at the present rate, have lost all his teeth because of gum diseases or will be suffering from such disease, according to figures reported by Dr. Charles M. Belting of the VA Regional Office, Chicago, and Drs. Maury Massler and Isaac Schour of the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, Chicago.

For those who will need false teeth, cold cured acrylic resins make artificial dentures that are stronger, better wearing and which look well in the mouth, Drs. E. Byron Kelly and Ralph E. Libberton of Chicago and Dr. Victor N. Jaffe of Washington reported.

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