

GENERAL SCIENCE

McCarran Act Unwelcome

President-elect Eisenhower received a Christmas Eve present, for on that day the Immigration Act of 1952, criticized during campaign, went into effect.

► PRESIDENT-ELECT EISENHOWER received a Christmas present Dec. 24 he said during the campaign he did not want. That is the day the Immigration Act of 1952, criticized by both candidates during the campaign, went into effect.

It promised to be a Christmas present for lawyers, too. It is so complicated and promises to be the cause of so much expensive litigation in the courts that lawyers are calling it the "Lawyer's Relief Act of 1952."

However, most Congressmen seem to like it. Introduced by Sen. Pat McCarran, D., Nev., and Rep. Francis E. Walter, D., Pa., it was finally passed six months ago over President Truman's veto. This, of course, took a two-thirds vote in both Houses.

The nation's scientists and teachers are not going to like this Christmas present either. In general, it continues the regulations which make it difficult for foreign scientists and others to visit this country. One who was a member of a communist or communist front organization must not only have left that organization five years ago, but also must have given active opposition to such organization.

However, those who were members of fascist organizations will find it easier to enter this country.

Scientists say these provisions as they have worked out in the past two years under the Internal Security Act of 1950 have prevented many persons, who by no stretch of the imagination could be called communist or subversive, from entering this country to attend scientific meetings.

Investigations by consuls have sometimes taken so long that the meetings have been over before the visa was granted. They have been so detailed that foreign scientists sometimes have not thought a trip to this country was worth the trouble.

There is one section of the new law which, in one way, will enable this country to receive as immigrants more people with needed skills and training. In another way, a further restriction is to be in force.

Previously professors could immigrate without regard to national quotas. Now they must come in under quotas. However, a preference is granted them within the quota. Also preference is granted to persons with training, skills and background needed in this country.

For the first time, psychopathic personalities, along with the feeble-minded, insane, those who have suffered prior attacks of insanity or who have mental defects, are listed. A lot of this, according to lawyers, is repetitious. The term "psychopathic personality" is vague and indefinite.

One of the big areas of change is in deportation regulations. Here lawyers expect cases testing the constitutionality of the new law. For instance, habeas corpus is suspended for aliens pending their deportation hearings. Also an inquiry officer is both judge and jury.

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MEDICINE

Globulin From Blood Pushed to Fight Polio

► SO THAT as many children as possible can be given gamma globulin next summer for protection against infantile paralysis, the American National Red Cross is preparing to step up its blood collection. At the same time, processing laboratories, where the gamma globulin is separated from blood, are starting to work at full capacity.

Although the Red Cross has accepted the request of the Office of Defense Mobilization to make available all possible gamma globulin for prevention of paralysis from poliomyelitis, it will not allocate or distribute the material, E. Roland Harriman, Red Cross president, has stated.



HIGH-REACHING TOWER—Poking 1,218 feet into the air, this radio tower in Rome, N. Y., is one of the highest man-made structures in the world.

The allocation agency has not yet been designated.

It takes about one pint of blood to make an average dose of gamma globulin for polio paralysis prevention. With at least 2,000,000 children expected to be exposed to polio next summer, the Red Cross will have to equal its peak collection during the war of 5,000,000 pints a year if it is to fulfill all its commitments for blood for Korean wounded, civilian hospitals, and gamma globulin for measles modification and for prevention of jaundice.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1952

MEDICINE

Ultraviolet Spots Cancer With Reddish Light

► A SPECIAL ultraviolet light, called the Wood light, will show a difference between highly malignant skin cancers and low or non-malignant skin sores, Dr. Francesco Ronchese of Boston University Medical School stated at the meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology in Chicago.

The advanced cancers give a "vivid orange red fluorescence," while non-cancers or low-grade cancers do not fluoresce at all under the Wood light, Dr. Ronchese said.

He showed what is believed to be the first satisfactory photographic record of this ever obtained on living human subjects.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1952

RADIO

Air Force Builds Tower For Radio Experiments

► A SKY-SWEEPING tower that rises 1,218 feet into the air has been built in Rome, N. Y., for the Air Research and Development Command to help the Air Force improve its use of radio through experimentation.

Requiring 772 tons of fabricated steel, the tower's top is only 232 feet lower than the world's highest antenna perched atop the Empire State Building. The Air Force tower is considered one of the highest man-made structures in the world.

The tower is triangular in cross-section. About four miles of guy wires hold it steady upon its crystalline sand base. Some of the guy cables are anchored nearly a quarter of a mile from the foot of the structure.

Except for height, the Air Force tower and the antenna on the Empire State Building have little in common. The tower on the Empire State Building itself is not tall. It gets its height from the building supporting it. But the Air Force tower is a single structure that reaches all the way from the ground to its 1,218-foot pinnacle. Because of this, the antenna had to be especially designed to withstand strong buffeting winds and heavy ice coatings during the winter.

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