

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# AAAS Meeting Highlights

Scientists attending the 120th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science met in nearly 300 sessions at which close to 2,000 papers were presented.

► **HIGHLIGHTS AMONG** the reports to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Boston included:

Children spend more than 20 hours a week looking at TV in big cities like Chicago, and teachers and parents should work together to make the most of it.—Dr. Paul Witty, Northwestern University.

Educators used to live longer than the general run of the population, but now this extra longevity seems to be disappearing.—Dr. Henry F. Dickenson, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.

Fruit flies that crowd into the center of the food in their glass bottle worlds are less resistant to DDT than those that pupate along the edges.—Dr. Robert R. Sokal and Preston E. Hunter of University of Kansas.

Red fluorescent light of high intensity, supplemented with blue, makes tomato plants under artificial illumination produce more, on a dry weight basis.—Dr. Stuart Dunn, University of New Hampshire.

More stomach cancer is found among relatives of persons with stomach cancer than among relatives of those who do not have this disease.—Dr. George W. Hagy, Southwestern Medical School of University of Texas, Dallas.

Scientists are trying to breed rats having hereditary high blood pressure and diabetes similar to the human ailments to aid them in their search for new combatant chemicals and drugs.—F. M. Sturtevant of G. D. Searle and Co.

Creams, including the silicone ones, supposed to protect workers from skin eruptions due to oil used in cutting steel at high speeds, fail to keep these oils from the skin in 20 out of 24 cases.—Dr. George E. Morris, Boston dermatologist.

## Tooth Decay by Diet

Tooth decay, everybody's disease that costs one billion dollars annually in U.S. teeth care, can now be produced experimentally by special diets in rats, hamsters and monkeys.—Dr. Reidar F. Sognnaes, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston.

A living tooth cannot decay in the complete absence of bacteria or in the complete absence of food, germ-free tests at the University of Notre Dame demonstrate.—Dr. Frank J. Orland, Zoller Dental Clinic, University of Chicago.

Experiments on 17 generations of rats show that a factor in dental decay is inheritance of a chemical peculiarity of the mouth, persistent presence of *Lactobacillus acidophilus*.—Drs. H. R. Hunt, C. A. Hoppert and Samuel Rosen of Michigan State College.

House mice in crowded pens, as density of their population increases, fight each other, tear up nests and become cannibals, thus limiting population to resources.—Dr. Charles H. Southwick, Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y.

Man's mental life can be thought of as the manifestation of an organized, self-regulating biological system raised to its highest level.—Prof. Edmund W. Sinnott, Yale University.

To our consternation we are discovering that water, air and light are not alike in abundance. In many places water must undergo expensive handling and treatment before use. For the individual, it is far from free.—Carl G. Paulsen, chief hydraulic engineer, U. S. Geological Survey.

## Elliptical Meteor Orbit

All the fireball meteors that occasionally flash in the sky come from our own solar system and have elliptical orbits like asteroids, rather than hyperbolic like some comets.—Dr. C. C. Wylie of State University of Iowa.

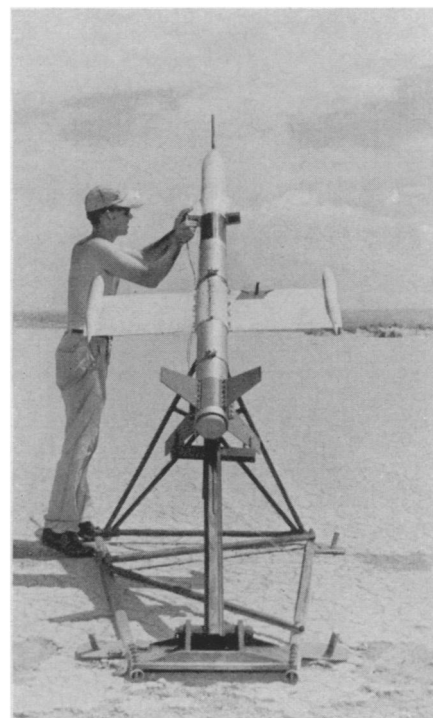
Less than a third of engineering graduates remain in engineering throughout their careers, and those that go into management make the change between the ages of 28 and 32.—Prof. J. Myron Johnson, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J.

The interaction of so-called natural forces need not predestine tomorrow's cities to unplanned development, but wise and informed planning can rescue communities from the consequences of bad location and spacing of new communities.—Prof. John T. Howard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

What is dangerous in levels of atomic radiation for communities must be kept flexible and not written into law, so that such levels can be modified with advancing knowledge.—Dr. Shields Warren, Boston pathologist and AEC consultant.

The single original cell from which all living organisms have arisen could have evolved in a shorter time than previously imagined, since yeast cell experiments show that microscopic cells that have undergone little change in a billion years can be modified and hand on to the next generation an ability to use a food.—Dr. Carl C. Lindgren and David D. Pittman, Southern Illinois University.

Human beings need to be studied as intensively as the new machines with which they perform complex controls in order to create automatic factories and other devices.—Dr. Gilbert K. Krulee, Tufts College, Medford, Mass.



**DESIGN TESTS**—This rocket-driven device provides supersonic testing of scale models of wing designs for future aircraft. The model wing is mounted on a five-inch high-velocity combat rocket, and electronic instruments packed in the 74-inch rocket laboratory radio back to the ground reports on the wing's characteristics at speeds about twice supersonic.

New welding techniques, which generate from 15 to 30 times more dangerous ultraviolet and infrared rays, may possibly bring on skin cancer if ordinary protective clothing for welders is faulty.—Dr. Robert C. Thompson, General Electric Company.

Although America has poured over 2.5 trillion dollars into highways and vehicles, little has been spent to determine why man reacts as he does as a driver; to cut highway fatalities, science should re-evaluate the highway program in terms of human capacity, spur new and better driver education in schools, and rewrite laws to fit human capacities.—Paul H. Blaisdell of the Association of Casualty and Surety Companies.

That color plays a role in the society of ducks was shown when ducklings caged with a red decoy and ducklings caged with a blue decoy later showed tolerance to live birds of the same respective colors; there was fighting and avoidance when ducks of "unfamiliar" colors were placed in the cages.—John V. Quaranta of Marymount College, N. Y.

Although significant genetic differences were found in past studies of blood groups, scientists were unable to differentiate between such groups as Finns and Arabs, or