

MANPOWER

Europe Lacks Scientists

► WESTERN EUROPE is suffering from scientific manpower anemia. It is even worse than that currently afflicting the United States.

This was indicated by a British Government official who told members of the National Science Foundation at a colloquium that "Western Europe has a very long way to go in solving its scientific and technological manpower problems."

Three specific problems plague Western Europe's quest for more scientific manpower and must be overcome before a solution can be found, Alcon Charles Copisarow, scientific attache at the British Embassy in Paris, said. These are military service requirements; the extent to which womanpower should be used in science and technology; and how to use scientists and technologists already on hand more effectively.

Every Western European country is suffering a shortage of scientists, engineers and technologists. France, for example, is seriously short in every sector of science and has fewer science students today than in 1938.

At the same time, the Western European nations are initiating crash programs to

alleviate the situation. England hopes to almost double its output of scientists and technologists in the next ten years and France has initiated plans to double the number of its science graduates and treble the number of its engineering graduates.

A recent study by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, Mr. Copisarow said, shows that in 1954-55 Western European universities granted a total of 33,000 science degrees. In the same year in the U. S., 53,480 degrees were granted.

Well below one percent of the total working force in Western Europe is engaged in science, whereas it is well above one percent in the U.S. Today, the British scientist said, there are 630,000 scientists at work in Western Europe.

Mr. Copisarow also reminded the group that last year Russia graduated more scientists, engineers and technologists than the United States, Canada and Western Europe combined. He attributed this, in part, to the tremendous number of Russian women in scientific studies. Mr. Copisarow also warned that, in time, Red China would make its scientific weight felt in the world.

Science News Letter, November 16, 1957

PUBLIC HEALTH

Lasker Awards Made

► THE FIRST use of tranquilizing drugs for the mentally ill, discovery of new types of virus, promotion of public health throughout the world and the creation of research and training grants from the U.S. Public Health Service are the achievements recognized by the 1957 Albert Lasker Awards of the American Public Health Association.

Six of this year's nine "medical oscars" went to physicians who were responsible for the introduction of tranquilizing drugs. Dr. Rustom Jal Vakil, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Bombay, India, was honored for first bringing the properties of Rauwolfia, parent drug of the tranquilizer reserpine, to the attention of western medicine.

Further research with reserpine as a treatment for mental and nervous disorders brought an award to Dr. Nathan S. Kline, Rockland State Hospital, Orangeburg, N.Y. Dr. Kline, more than any other investigator, is credited with the large-scale use of reserpine in mental hospitals. The use of the drug in mental defectives as well as in the mentally ill won an award for Dr. Robert H. Noce, Modesto State Hospital, California.

Research with another tranquilizer, chlorpromazine, brought awards to three other physicians: Dr. Henri Laborit, Hospital du Val de Grace, Paris, France, for studies of surgical shock resulting in the first use of chlorpromazine as a treatment; Dr. Pierre Deniker, Medical Faculty, Psychiatric Hos-

pitals, Paris, France, for introducing chlorpromazine into psychiatry; and Dr. Heinz E. Lehmann, Verdun Protestant Hospital, Montreal, Canada, for demonstrating the practical uses of the tranquilizer in treating the mentally ill.

Also honored was Dr. Richard E. Shope, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, who discovered the virus of swine influenza and proved that cancer can be induced by a virus.

Dr. Frank G. Boudreau, Milbank Memorial Fund, New York, received one of the nine awards for his work as an "international statesman" and promoter of public health throughout the world.

Another public health scientist honored was Dr. C. J. Van Slyke, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., for the creation and administration of the huge research and training grants programs of the U.S. Public Health Service.

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SURGERY

Slanting Windshields Dangerous, Surgeon Says

► SLANTED windshields in today's automobiles are causing major surgical problems after auto accidents, Dr. Frank Pirruccello, Northwestern University Medical School, reported to the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery meeting in San Francisco.

He advocated the use of a special "crash pad" to be placed between the motorist and the windshield to protect him from mutilating injuries.

The "inside" windshield would be made of a flexible laminated transparent material and would be placed about a foot behind the regulation windshield. It might catch the face and save it from injury if a crash occurs, the surgeon reported.

Windshield injuries are becoming steadily worse, and those seated next to the driver in the "mutilation seat" are the ones most frequently injured.

The surgeon blamed increasing speed and the modern large slanting windshield for the current increase in facial injuries.

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