EDUCATION

# High Birth Rates Threaten

➤ IN 1980, the school population is expected to be 59,000,000. This means facilities will be needed for 14,000,000 more children than the 45,000,000 now overcrowding the nation's schoolrooms.

This gain of almost a third in elementary and high-school age children is estimated by statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, based largely on the record high number of births throughout the postwar years and their expected continuation at a relatively high level.

Deterioration of educational systems may be expected unless school facilities are sufficient to take care of this growth. Other effects—overcrowded suburban areas, decaying central cities, vanishing water supplies, higher taxes—all are part of the impact of our burgeoning population on social and economic structures.

Present food resources in the United States are more than sufficient to meet national demands despite increased population. In fact, U. S. food surpluses are economically undesirable from a national viewpoint.

However, on an international level, food production throughout all the areas of the world, developed as well as underdeveloped, must be increased to meet world population demands. Maxwell L. Stewart of the Public Affairs Committee has urged that the resources of science be applied to this problem.

"With hundreds of millions still without adequate food and the world's population increasing by some 50,000,000 a year, it has become evident that much more needs to be done, and done quickly, if man's hunger is to be conquered," Mr. Stewart reports in a new Committee pamphlet, "That No Man Shall Hunger."

The Committee's main drive for the coming year will be to persuade farmers to use better seeds. Similar drives with the help of public support have helped conquer livestock disease, made new foods available, and increased fishery catches.

Others also concerned with meeting the demands of growing world populations, such as the Population Reference Bureau, believe the answer realistically lies in birth control rather than in increasing agricultural production. More food in itself is not the answer to all the problems that come with expanding populations. As they point out, food production does not give us more schools, housing, water, sewage disposal systems, and other urban and rural requirements for adequate living standards.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

# 20th Talent Search Starts

➤ THE 20TH SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH is being launched with an invitation to seniors in 30,000 public, private and parochial high schools throughout the United States to compete for special recognition of high-level ability in science. Four or five hundred of these students may become members of the Honors Group.

The most outstanding of the Honors Group will be selected as the top 40 winners who will receive invitations to the all-expenses-paid five-day Science Talent Institute in Washington next spring. During the Institute the winners will be judged for $34,250 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships and Awards.

Conducted by SCIENCE SERVICE through its Science Clubs of America, the Science Talent Search is supported by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, in announcing this year's Search, stated that "widespread recognition of the crucial importance of scientific knowledge to human existence has added new urgency to this program dedicated to discovering potentially creative scientists among America's young people.

"Their education and professional careers can then be assured so their contributive work may be added to that of the outstanding young research scientists discovered in 19 previous Searches."

Principals and science teachers in secondary schools throughout the country now are receiving suggestions on "How You Can Search for Science Talent." This material will help them in recognizing science talented boys and girls and encouraging the students to enter the Twentieth Science Talent Search.

Faculty members will request, and after Nov. 15 receive, more than 30,000 sets of entry materials for their most promising seniors. Of these, it is estimated that more than 4,500 students will complete all entry requirements. About ten percent will be named members of the Honors Group.

All winners and other members of the Honors Group will be recommended to colleges, universities and technical schools of their own choice.

Unlike many scholarship competitions, the Science Talent Search has no rule prohibiting those who receive its honors from accepting additional scholarships from colleges, universities, industry or foundations.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

## Science Fair Scientists Sail with U.S. Navy

➤ THE NAVY SCIENCE CRUISERS have gone "down to the seas again" for the third consecutive annual cruise arranged by the U. S. Navy to show science-in-action to high school juniors and seniors.

Each spring the Cruisers are chosen for their outstanding science projects exhibited at the National Science Fair-International and at regional science fairs affiliated with this international program which is coordinated by SCIENCE SERVICE.

In the fall, Navy planes fly the boys from bases near their homes on farms and plains, in manufacturing towns, mountain villages and metropolitan centers to East and West Coast embarking points.

The West Coast cruise for 73 students was based at San Diego, Calif., from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1.

On the East Coast, six Cruisers sailed from Mayport, Fla., 73 from Norfolk, Va., and 27 from Charleston, S. C.

Afloat and ashore, these 179 students experienced several of the most privileged days of their young lives in seminars, tours and informal discussions with Navy scientists and specialists in laboratories where they were guests.

They gained firsthand information on such subjects as submarines, air operations, nuclear physics, astronautics, radar, sonar, computers and many other aspects of current research and development. Many of the young Cruisers received ideas and guidance toward their future professional training and careers.

The Atlantic cruises docked on Oct. 8, while the western Cruisers started for home and high school classes on Oct. 1.

The Navy Science Cruiser program was first launched by the U. S. Navy in cooperation with SCIENCE SERVICE in 1946 and was reinstated as a continuing program in 1958.

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EDUCATION

## New Teaching Methods Urged for Creative Child

➤ TEACHERS MAY have to adapt present methods of instruction to recognize and meet the demands of the imaginative, creative child, a University of Chicago educator said in Washington, D. C.

The "creativity quotient" of the child must be measured as well as his intelligence quotient, Prof. J. W. Getzels stated at a news conference with Lawrence G. Derthick, U. S. Commissioner of Education. Tests that will show this ability should be devised, he said.

Dr. Derthick noted that we "may be losing as much as 70% of these gifted, creative children" by failing to recognize them in the home as well as in the school.

The Commissioner called the news conference to report on progress made in research sponsored by the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on gifted and superior children. He predicted that educational changes in the next ten years as a consequence of current findings would be far greater than those that have occurred in our history.

Creative abilities show a sharp drop in the fourth grade, it was reported. This fourth grade slump is borne out by surveys over the past several years by SCIENCE SERVICE of science interests of students interested in science.

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