

GENERAL SCIENCE

1962 Navy Science Cruise

► THE NAVY had 217 neophytes touring nuclear submarines, visiting up-to-the-minute scientific laboratories, observing amphibious landings, and watching experienced professional scientists at work on land and sea this summer.

For the fifth consecutive year, the U. S. Navy awarded week-long trips to top-ranking young scientists at the annual National Science Fair-International, and at its affiliated regional science fairs in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and in the American schools in Europe.

The students from the western part of the nation made their Navy Science Cruise in San Diego during the week of Aug. 11-18, where they visited the Navy Electronics Laboratory, observed amphibious training exercises, visited the Pacific Missile Range at Point Mugu, toured the USS Nereus, a sub tender, and assorted submarines including the nuclear variety. Their week was climaxed by tours of such science-oriented institutions as Kin Tel Division, Cohu Electronics, Inc., and part of the General Dynamics complex, Astronautics.

East of the Mississippi, the chosen boys spent from Aug. 18 to 25 in either Norfolk, Va., or Charleston, S. C. The Charleston Cruise highlights included various ships and shore-based science activities, with an entire day aboard nuclear submarines. Norfolk plans included scientific tours of assorted dockside ships and shore activities, and the viewing of amphibious operations from aboard the USS Mt. McKinley.

The boys were flown from airfields near their homes to their Science Cruise site, and back again by pilots of Chief of Naval Air Training, headquartered at Glenview, Ill.

Past participants have been so enthusiastic about the valuable experiences of the Navy Science Cruise that this trip has become one of the most sought-after awards at science fairs throughout the nation.

The Navy program is aimed at encouraging youth to develop a more active interest in science. It began in 1946 and won its present status as a continuing program in 1958. The science fair program is coordinated by SCIENCE SERVICE.

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News From Science Clubs

► MANY CLUBS affiliated with Science Clubs of America have started their activities for the 1962-63 school year. The following reports have been received.

The nine Japanese finalists who have participated in the National Science Fair-International since 1958 have recently organized THE JAPAN STUDENT SCIENCE AWARDS FINALIST CLUB. The club members will be able to enhance mutual friendship and help one another in many ways; give advice and assistance to students who will be sent to the U.S.A. to participate in the National Science Fair-International; and make contributions to the Japan Student Science Awards and Science Fair. The two finalists selected each year will become new members of the club.

THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE CLUB, Brentwood, N. Y., held its annual convention in July near Seattle, Wash. The members spent two days visiting the U.S. Science Exhibit at the Seattle World's Fair.

A WORKSHOP CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE YOUTH ACTIVITIES sponsored by Science Clubs of America in cooperation with the University of Kentucky and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission was held in Lexington, Ky., on Aug. 10. The conference speakers included Dr. Frank G. Dickey, President, University of Kentucky; Dr. H. H. LaFuze, Director of the Kentucky Science Talent Search; Thomas Hutto, Chairman, Kentucky Junior Academy of Science; Albert L. Berry and Harry M. Watkins, State Science Supervisors; representatives from the U.S. Atomic Energy

Commission; and also from Indiana, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia.

Saturday morning classes for groups in biology, chemistry and physics are held by the members of the SCIENCE CLUB at Cathedral High School, Springfield, Mass.

Start planning your club activities for NATIONAL SCIENCE YOUTH MONTH October 1-31. Send reports on these activities to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

School Children Need Foot Examinations

► WITH 60% of all American school children having foot troubles, the American Podiatry Association meeting in Washington, D. C., has called for enactment of state laws for annual examinations of the feet.

Dr. Benjamin C. Mullens, president of the association, who practices in Binghamton, N. Y., told 1,000 foot doctors that almost 15% of school children have serious foot troubles and that annual examinations would materially reduce the number.

Four out of five elderly persons suffer from some kind of foot disorder, Dr. Mullens said, adding that other ailments result from lack of moving about.

"How can our older people get necessary exercise if their feet hurt?" he asked, pointing out that heart specialists agree that one of the best preventives of heart disease is normal use of the feet and legs.

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GEOGRAPHY

Revise High School Teaching of Geography

► A GROUP of professional geographers is at work on a long-range revision of the teaching of geography in America's 20,000 high schools.

Their study, the High School Geography Project, is part of a broad revolution in American secondary education, aimed at bringing the level of high school courses in line with current knowledge in the physical, life and social sciences; mathematics, and foreign languages.

"In geography, there is about a generation's gap between the way professional geographers think and what is taught in our schools," says Dr. William D. Pattison of the University of California, Los Angeles, geography department.

Dr. Pattison is serving as director of the Geography Project, launched last fall by a joint committee of the Association of American Geographers and the National Council for Geography Education.

During the past year, the committee has drawn the major guidelines for a pilot high school geography course which will get its first trial run at ten schools in September and will incorporate parts of the committee's "Modern Geography."

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ENGINEERING

Engineering Technicians Needed to Help Engineers

► THERE OUGHT to be two engineering technicians to one engineer, Dr. H. Russell Beatty, president of Wentworth Institute, Boston, Mass., told a three-day conference on nuclear education in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Two-year college-level programs at technical institutes can be of tremendous importance in supplying the nuclear industry's vital manpower needs, Dr. Beatty said, pointing out that engineers should be devoting more of their time to creative work.

The training of a nuclear engineer, another speaker said, should begin at the undergraduate level, and not after a student has completed his education in one of the "regular" engineering fields. Dr. Pietro F. Pasqua, head of the nuclear engineering department, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, said that students must be trained by instructors bent on creating nuclear engineers.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Life Expectancy Rises To 70 Years in U. S.

► LIFE EXPECTANCY in the U. S. for those born last year, reached an estimated 70.2 years, the U. S. Public Health Service revealed. This figure is based on a 10% sample of death records received by the National Vital Statistics Division from the 50 states. There were about 1,702,000 deaths in 1961 giving a rate of 9.3 per 1,000 population.

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