

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Program Spreads

Five Latin American countries now participate in the worldwide science youth program and plan to send delegates to the National Science Fair International next year.

► THOUSANDS of boys and girls in the high schools of Latin America are joining those in the United States and other parts of the world in doing science experiments and projects and showing them in science fairs.

The Chilean Science Fair organized this fall was held on Oct. 25 in Santiago under the sponsorship of the Chilean Department of Public Education aided by a national committee for the popularization of science just organized.

Last March the first Mexican Science Fair was held at Mexico City. In April 1963 Colombia will hold a science fair for its students interested in science. Next year Peru also plans a science fair under the auspices of the Peruvian Atomic Energy Commission. Brazil has had a science fair and a science talent search for several years organized from Sao Paulo.

These new opportunities for young people to augment their science studies by hobby and extracurricular development of science projects extend to other parts of the Western Hemisphere the science youth programs which developed during the past two decades in the United States. There are approximately five thousand science fairs in U. S. secondary schools and it is estimated approximately a million boys and girls do projects and show in these fairs the exhibits that result. The high school fairs send their best exhibits to local and regional science fairs and 210 of these regional fairs will send their winning displays to the National Science Fair-International which will be held next May at Albuquerque, N.M.

Canada, too, has a science fair program involving about a dozen local exhibitions each year. Among the other foreign countries holding science fairs are Japan, Thailand and Pakistan. The Armed Services Dependents' Schools in France and Germany also have their science fair activities.

Many thousands of clubs, groups and classes in secondary schools throughout the world carry on science activities, many of which result in science fair projects and exhibits.

In Mexico and Chile the science fair development has been made possible by support from the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission through SCIENCE SERVICE, the American institution for the popularization of science, which sponsors the national science youth program in the United States. The Atomic Energy Commission considers the science youth program in Mexico and Chile as supporting its effort to bring nuclear and technical information to those countries. The winning exhibits in the Mexican Science Fair were included in the "Atoms in Action" exhibit displayed by

the Atomic Energy Commission in Mexico City and the winning exhibits of the Chilean Science Fair will similarly be shown in the extensive atomic energy exposition in November in Santiago.

In both Mexico and Chile the official governmental departments of education have joined SCIENCE SERVICE in organizing the fair and in both countries. It is expected that the fair, with participation of public, private and parochial schools and the support by industry, professional societies and civic groups, will continue in future years as a permanent part of the educational system. Plans are under way to extend a similar development not only in Colombia where the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission exhibition will be shown in 1963, but also in Peru where the government atomic energy commission plans to sponsor a science fair for that country. While atomic energy has been the motive power for the organization of science fairs in Latin America, the exhibits, like those in the U.S. science fairs, cover the whole range of science from astronomy to zoology in all aspects.

From the experience that boys and girls had in doing their own science projects in addition to the studies that they have undertaken in the schools themselves, scientists and educators expect that there will be a renaissance of science interest in these countries and there will be a development of scientists, engineers, medical workers and technologists that will support the growing industrial, medical and agricultural developments so important to the future of the countries involved.

Eventually it is hoped that means will be discovered to exchange the young people of the various countries so that they may show each other their scientific achievements and the hope also is that the best exhibits from the Latin American Fairs will be sent by their nations to the United States for display with the exhibits of those from all parts of the U.S.

SCIENCE SERVICE has provided, as a means of enhancing interest and demonstrating the experimental technique, simple kits which are in effect "experiments in a box." In the case of Mexico and Chile, collections of these kits with literature translated into Spanish have been sent to all secondary schools as an evidence of what can be done simply in scientific experimentation. Distribution of these kits has been shown to be an inspiration to teachers and to students and encourages them to prepare the exhibits which are shown in the fairs.

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Mexican, Two Americans Win Public Health Award

► THREE HEALTH scientists—a cabinet minister, an engineer and a university dean—were named for the 1962 Bronfman Prizes for Public Health Achievement by the American Public Health Association.

The 1962 awards were conferred on Dr. Jose Alvarez Amezcuita, Mexico's Secretary of Health and Welfare; Theodore Frederick Hatch, professor of industrial health engineering, University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, and Dr. Charles Edward Smith, dean of the School of Public Health of the University of California at Berkeley.

The \$5,000 awards honor outstanding international accomplishment in applying new knowledge to the betterment of human health.

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U.S.-Japan Group Plans Science Cooperation

► SCIENTIFIC interchange between Japan and the United States is being speeded by the formation of a U. S.-Japan Committee on Science Cooperation as the result of the high level talks between President Kennedy and Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda in June 1961 in Washington.

Paralleling an economic committee that was organized earlier after the same heads-of-nations meeting, the joint science group has panels in seven areas: exchange of materials, exchange of persons, oceanography of the Pacific, ecology of the Pacific, cancer and other medical research, hurricanes, and science education.

The joint chairmen of the committee are Dr. Harry Kelly, associate director, National Science Foundation, Washington, who headed Gen. MacArthur's science office just after World War II, and Dr. Kan-kuro Kaneshige, emeritus professor of the University of Tokyo and member of the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission.

Details of the development are expected to involve about \$2 million from the two countries.

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TECHNOLOGY

Device to Measure Deep Sea Current Velocity

► AN UNDERWATER electronic device so sensitive that it can measure the velocity of a deep sea current that travels only one mile in three and one-half days has been developed by General Dynamics/Electronics, Rochester.

Only eight inches in diameter and nine inches long, the unit can also measure velocities as high as 20 knots—about three times the speed of any known ocean currents. In addition, it provides an indication of the current's direction with reference to magnetic north that is accurate to within two degrees.

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