



Watson Davis

FIRST URUGUAYAN SCIENCE FAIR—One of the exhibit balls showing only a portion of the 500 exhibits displayed at the First Uruguayan Science Fair held in October in Montevideo.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Argentine Science Fair

Argentina has been added to the growing list of foreign countries joining the science fair program with its plans to participate on a national basis—By Watson Davis

► ARGENTINA is planning a program of science youth activities on a volunteer basis for the students in the science classes of its secondary schools.

The holding of science fairs at which boys and girls will display the science experiments they have done is to be organized on a national basis in the coming months. Both the Argentine Department of Education and the National Commission for Scientific and Technical Investigation are participating in this new development.

Dr. Bernardo A. Houssay, Nobelist in medicine or physiology, who is president of the commission, has enthusiastically endorsed the program and participated in its formation.

The Department of Education through its section on secondary schools will operate the program with Assistant Secretary of Education, Mariano Durand, and Director of Secondary Schools, Hellmut Renato Volker, in charge.

Representatives of SCIENCE SERVICE are lending organizing assistance, providing information and teaching material such as devised in similar projects in other Latin American countries and the United States.

A temporary organizing committee of the projected Argentine National Science Fair has met with Secretary Durand, Department of Education officials, and scientists.

The new administration for education has just taken office under the new President of Argentina, Dr. Arturo Illia, a physician who

was once a student of Nobelist Houssay.

The science youth program has participation from the two largest newspapers, La Nacion and La Prensa.

Dr. Jacobo Brailovsky, La Nacion's medical editor, is on the committee while Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz, La Prensa's internationally famous director, has pledged his interest and support.

Two Argentine delegations have journeyed to Montevideo to view the First Uruguayan Science Fair. Dr. Brailovsky and Dr. Andres Valeiras of the Scientific and Technical Commission's science teaching section, accompanied by Dr. Frederick Brown, scientific attache of the American Embassy, Buenos Aires, comprised one delegation.

Secretary Durand, accompanied by two science teachers, Dr. Ricardo Paladini and Dr. Enrique Martinez Granados formed a second group.

Some schools have already initiated small science fairs in the pattern of the exhibitions in some 10,000 high schools in the United States each year. At Zarate in the Province of Buenos Aires such a fair was held this fall and named in honor of Dr. Houssay, Argentina's leading scientist.

When Argentina has its national science fair in the next school year, beginning next March at the end of the Southern Hemisphere's summer, it will be the fifth Latin American country to have country-wide fairs organized by national committees with

cooperation of SCIENCE SERVICE and Science Clubs of America.

Countries already incorporating science fairs in their school systems in this way are Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay. Brazil inaugurated science fairs and clubs several years ago following the U.S.A. pattern.

Chile held its second national science fair which began on Nov. 5.

This continuation has the support of a Rockefeller Foundation grant which will also aid the Argentine program. Other fairs were held in connection with and under support of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission exhibits.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

First Uruguayan Science Fair Surprises in Variety

► WHEN URUGUAYAN TEACHERS invited secondary school students to do experiments and exhibit them in the first national science fair, they expected about a hundred displays to be entered in the contest.

The national committee was astounded when more than 800 exhibits by a thousand students were offered in the competition, resulting in six student projects being shown in the Atoms in Action exhibits of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, which has been attracting thousands of visitors during November.

Even one of the newest secondary schools, Instituto Aectar Miranda, could provide space in its gymnasium and assembly hall for only 500 of the student exhibits.

All fields of science ranging from astronomy to zoology were represented in the exhibits. Animals of the country had their skins and skeletons mounted and their unusual features shown. The usefulness of native plants was studied and new commercial utilizations suggested.

In the astronomy section there was an array of telescopes made by the young scientists. Atomic energy in its useful applications of radioactive isotopes and model power plants for Uruguay's future energy needs provided subjects for other exhibits.

Both latest medical progress, such as antibiotics, and basic studies of brain, body and bacteria were demonstrated.

Plans are being made for another science fair next year because teachers, college professors and school inspectors are pleased with the increase in interest of students in science study that results from the holding of the fair.

The fair was conducted by a committee of professors and secondary school science inspectors, consisting of Prof. Alberto C. Rodriguez, president of the secondary school council, Dr. Hector Fernandez Guido, director of the Municipal Planetarium, and the following science inspectors: Drs. Juan C. Arruti, Enrique Emeric, Juan C. Oliver Martorell and Rodolfo F. Sayagues.

The American Embassy and the AEC exhibit cooperated and representatives from SCIENCE SERVICE aided in the planning and the inauguration of the fair.

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