oratories, in a conspicuous place. Test it regularly, recharging if necessary, to assure proper functioning at all times.

10. When inserting glass tubing into a stopper, lubricate the tubing and wrap the tubing in cloth to help prevent injury in event of breakage.

11. Cleanliness of work area and materials is essential.

12 Lab equipment should be constructed of fire-resistant materials.

13. A well-stocked first aid kit is essential in the home laboratory. Know the location of your school's first aid station.

Thirteen common sense rules are "unlucky" only if they are not followed religiously.

Home chemistry sets often are a youngster's first introduction to science. These contain comparatively harmless chemicals, and the accompanying manual usually gives complete directions for numerious experiments using only the materials provided. If directions are followed, no danger is likely. It is the parents' responsibility to aid their children in the proper use of such a chemistry set. Even without a chemical background, parents can review the safety

instructions in the manual and make certain their children clearly understand and follow the safety rules.

Most children interested enough in science to perform experiments and work on science projects probably belong to a science club or are taking a science course in school. Teachers and science club sponsors should show safety films and review safety precautions in class or club meetings.

Three suggested films are "Safety in the Chemical Laboratory," a 16mm sound-color 20-minute film available from the Manufacturing Chemists Association, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009; "Safety in the Chemical Lab," also a 16mm sound-color film, available through the Safety Officer, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.; and "Take Your Choice," 15-minute film available through the Detroit Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 1401 Ash St., Detroit 8, Mich.

Safety is an integral part of the scientific attitude. Without the scientific attitude, you should not be experimenting. Danger can be avoided, minimized, eliminated. It should never be ignored.

• Science News Letter, 89:90 February 5, 1966

GENERAL SCIENCE

hina's Science Growing

➤ RED CHINA has been strengthening its scientific and engineering muscles by pushing thousands of students through colleges and universities.

Yet these masses of young scientists are getting less comprehensive training than older generations of scientists, according to a 588-page report on scientific and engineering manpower in Communist China from 1949 to 1963. The young scientists also lack sufficient experience to engage in top-level research, states Dr. Chu-yuan Cheng, formerly with the Institute of Far Eastern Studies at Seton Hall University and now with the University of Michigan.

Since the Red Chinese Government has not issued any major statistical reports or communiques since 1960, Dr. Cheng has based much of his investigation on hundreds of newspapers, periodicals and scientific journals published on the Chinese mainland, as well as on a number of Russian and Japanese publications.

In 1963, many of China's leading scientists were 60 or 70 years old, engaged in basic and creative research. Now with China's desire to become a leading world scientific power, quality has been sacrificed for quantity.

The success or failure in bridging the gap between the mass of young scientists and the older scientists will determine whether China will become a scientifically advanced power in the next decade or two, believes Dr. Cheng, who has been conducting the Chinese studies with a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Since the beginning of the Communist regime in 1949, China has also been mobilizing its women into scientific and engineering fields. Enrollment of women students has expanded fivefold in institutions of higher education where thousands of these women are studying science and engineering.

China has also stepped up her participation in new branches of science since 1949. The country entered the nuclear age with Soviet assistance in 1958 with the installation of a 7,000 to 10,000 kilowatt heavy-water-type experimental reactor, a 25-million electron-volt cyclotron and more than 10 types of accelerators. With its successful nuclear explosions of October 1964 and May 1965, Communist China ranks among the countries holding nuclear capability, marking a new era in Chinese science and technology. Research is strongly concentrated in fields where immediate production was possible—in radioelectronics, in meteorology, and in chemical, steel, and

other metallurgical industries.

The full use of China's potential scientific and engineering manpower has been hampered by the subordination of scientific training to political dogmatism, states Dr. Cheng. It has also been hampered by rigid party control over scientific enterprises, by a persistent suspicion of the old scientists, and by the choice of more than 10,000 capable middle-aged scientists and engineers to remain in the United States or other Western countries where they received their training.

Science News Letter, 89:91 February 5, 1966

Do You Know?

Cold blooded pets such as turtles, chameleons and alligators, may be potential carriers of bacteria of the genus Salmonella and infect children.

Jets of water under very high pressure are being used in some Soviet mines to cut anthracite, an extremely hard type of coal.

• Science News Letter, 89:91 February 5, 1966

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