

Goddard resigns

The Food and Drug Administration is charged by law with insuring the safety and effectiveness of medications prescribed in the United States. It has other functions, but that, by far, is its most significant.

It was a relatively spiritless regulator, living on its good relations with the industry it was to control, when Dr. James L. Goddard left the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta to head it 28 months ago.

On Goddard's resignation, rumored in Washington for some weeks and finally accepted by Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Wilbur Cohen last week, FDA is more vigorous than it was, if not as strong as Goddard once thought he could make it.

"I give myself five years," Goddard said when he took the job, promising to upgrade the esprit of the down-at-the-heels agency, as well as its regulatory fervor and its scientific potential.

Goddard began, by his lights, inauspiciously. He declared that he wanted the cooperation of the \$3 billion-a-year pharmaceutical industry with which, though he was the regulator and it the regulated, he felt he shared a common purpose—consumer protection. Nevertheless, he denounced the industry early on as irresponsible and not to be trusted.

It took him most of his tenure to overcome his reputation as an irresponsible firebrand who talked first and thought afterwards. He raised hackles not only in the industry but in Congress as well; most recently, he was raked over the coals for not being sufficiently negative about the use of marijuana (SN: 11/18/67, p. 501).

Nevertheless, he did upgrade FDA and the ties between it and the scientific community. Along with updating and automating FDA's drug information system, he contracted with the National Academy of Sciences and university centers for research he was unable to do within the agency.

Goddard had hoped to leave the agency in the hands of one of the more aggressive deputies he brought into FDA in the last two years, and made such a recommendation to Cohen in submitting his resignation. Cohen's failure to act at the time he accepted the resignation, however, leaves the succession up in the air.

Unlike many Food and Drug officials who join the drug industry on leaving Government, Goddard will become a vice president for health science affairs for EDP Technology, Inc., a data processing firm in Atlanta.

Top winners named

While industry, government and the schools worked to increase youngsters' interest in science (see page 531) the 1968 International Science Fair was being held in Detroit.

Operated since 1950 by Science Service, the fair chose 13 top winners from a field of 428 high school students, themselves winners of earlier fairs in 46 states, the District of Columbia and 10 foreign countries. The chosen:

Barbara Bartels, 16, Garfield Heights Senior High School, Garfield Heights, Ohio—development of a mathematical and logical basis of computer circuitry.

Noel Peyton Greis, 16, Wachusett Regional HS, Holden, Mass.—experiments on the reasons for the gathering of fish in schools of different sizes. (Also a winner in the 1968 Science Talent Search.)

Elin Kristin Hansen, 18, Clairemont Senior HS, San Diego, Calif.—a theory to explain color perception through the skin, partly as a thermal phenomenon but partly due to an unknown factor.

Etsuko Hayashi, 18, Tokyo Municipal Hakuo HS, Taito-ku, Japan—investigation of the influence of metal ions on the formation of copper ammine complex salt.

Lane Palmer Hughston, 16, Hillcrest HS, Dallas, Tex.—an original solution to Einstein's field equations.

Neil F. Martin, 17, Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS, Bethesda, Md.—a variable camber and thickness airfoil. (Also a 1968 Science Talent Search winner.)

William Thomas Mason, 17, Terry Parker Senior HS, Jacksonville, Fla.—isolation and biochemical investigation of the toxic principle in the sea anemone, *Metridium senile*.

Paul Bartlett Re', 18, Sandia HS, Albuquerque, N. Mex.—a study of the interaction of high speed jets.

Ron Sanches, 16, Gustine Union HS, Gustine, Calif.—extraction of active hormone from the bacteria causing hairy root disease in plants.

Patricia Ann Smith, 17, Lebanon HS, Lebanon, Pa.—detection, by lack of antiserum agglutination, of sexuality in mutant strains of *E. coli* bacteria.

Stephen Lee Thaler, 18, University City HS, St. Louis, Mo.—a study of the migration of negative crystals.

Peter Tornqvist, 20, Stockholms Tekniska Gymnasium I, Stockholm, Sweden—development of the "Kurv-motor," reportedly 30 percent more efficient than the conventional internal combustion engine.

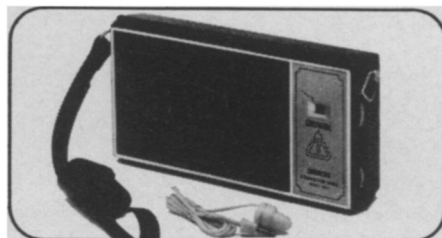
Bracie Watson Jr., 17, A. H. Parker HS, Birmingham, Ala.—fertilization and development of mammalian ova in an artificial uterine system.

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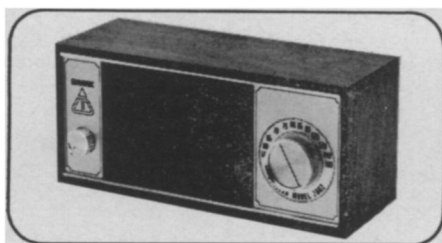
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