

NEW BETHLEHEM, Pa.—In the Retort and Scalpel Club at New Bethlehem High School, each member is required to complete one laboratory project each year. The club expects to enter several exhibits at the Science and Engineering Fair to be held at the Buhl Planetarium, Pittsburgh, and also hopes to conduct and sponsor a Science Fair in New Bethlehem. The club is affiliated with the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science as well as with Science Clubs of America and is sponsored by Lloyd S. Bromley, science teacher.

SUPERIOR, Nebr.—Cutting slots into an old Ford motor so that everyone can see all moving and working parts is a task being done by Keith Semke of the Superior High School Science Club sponsored by Glenn R. Yont, science instructor. Some members of the same club are taking fingerprints and sending them to the F.B.I.; others are working on by-products of coal, preparing simple cosmetics or conducting experiments in photography, radio and taxidermy.

FREEPORT, Ill.—Membership in the Freeport Nature Club, even though established at the Freeport High School, is not limited to high school students. The club maintains a nature trail and goes in for nature hikes for the study of birds, flowers and trees. This year the members expect to hold an Open House exhibit during which individual and club projects will be displayed. The sponsor is Thomas G. Spring, biology teacher.

MONTPELIER, Vt.—A great deal of fun is had at Quiz Contests conducted regularly by the Science Forum at St. Michael's High School, sponsored by Sister M. Annunciata, science teacher. Members attack scientific subjects in more thorough and earnest fashion, however, when apparatus are constructed, papers are read and discussed and science demonstrations are given. Subjects covered are chemistry, physics and biology. A local science fair will be held in May where a display of exhibits will be arranged and lectures will be presented by young scientists. This club is also affiliated

with the Vermont Chapter of the Catholic Round Table of Science.

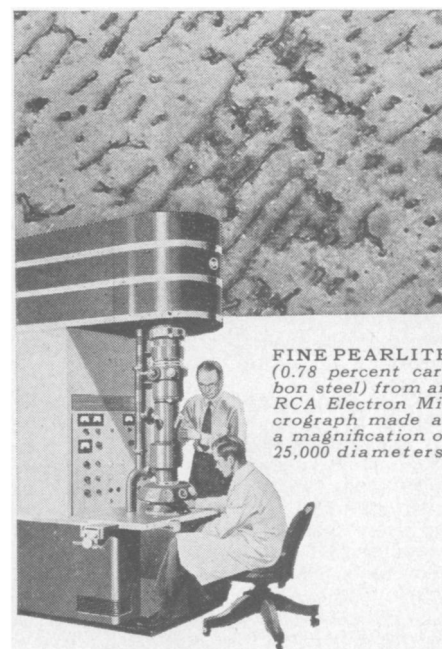
POMPTON LAKES, N. J.—The Science Club at Pompton Lakes High School, sponsored by Edmond Geisler, science teacher, is really a combination of two clubs under one charter. There is a Science Club proper which holds weekly meetings for discussion of the latest developments in science as reported by Science Service. Talks and demonstrations are given at the same time. Some members are establishing for the school a mineral collection of specimens from the rich Franklin and Paterson areas. Others are working on projects outside of school for display at the annual school exhibit. The second division is the Camera Club, which under the direction of Mr. Toan, has its own fully-equipped darkrooms. It recently spent a "Photographic Day" at the Bronx Zoo. The club also is affiliated with The American Institute Science and Engineering Clubs.

COMMERCE, Texas—The Star-Gazers Club at the Demonstration School (Junior High) of East Texas State Teachers College, meets bi-weekly at the home of a member, who acts as host and produces the program for the evening. In addition, field trips are made and laboratory demonstrations are given. The club is sponsored by E. H. Watson, director of the Demonstration School.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa.—The Johnstown Junior Academy of Science, formed at Central High School, puts on assembly programs and hopes to sponsor a Science Congress this spring. Plans are now under way for presentation of papers at the State Meeting. Exhibits are being built for display at the Pittsburgh Science Fair. This very active group of 90 members is sponsored by Sophie M. Moiles, head of the science department.

Clubs are invited to become affiliated with SCA for a nominal \$2 for 20 members or less. You can become an associate of SCA for 25 cents. Address: Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

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CHEMISTRY—ENTOMOLOGY

Ammunition For Insect War Found in South's Own Soil

AMMUNITION for the South's unending war of defense against alien insect invaders can be found in the South's own soil, Dr. A. A. Nikitin, research chemist of the Tennessee Copper Company, told the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Dallas.

Boll weevil, potato leaf hopper, Mexican bean beetle, Japanese beetle, white-fringed beetle and many other divisions of the enemy hordes can be fought and routed with dusts containing talc or fine white clay mined in the hills of Georgia and Carolinas, combined with copper compounds and other poisonous chemicals.

Even without the poisons, the white dusts alone will repel many of the pests, making them seek their food elsewhere than on valuable crop plants, Dr. Nikitin stated. This repellent effect is especially valuable against sucking insects like the leaf hoppers, which are very difficult to poison.

By diluting the poisonous compounds, these dust materials make the costly chemicals go much farther. For example, a 20-pound charge of copper arsenate dust will contain 16 pounds of clay or talc and only four pounds of the arsenate itself.

Extension of the dusting counter-attack against insect pests, and against fungi that cause diseases as well, is important in the present war emergency, when production of all crops must be increased, the speaker pointed out. Southern farmers have been used to dusting their cotton fields, but have clung to the idea that other crops can be protected only by spraying. Spraying equipment is elaborate and expensive, and may be hard to get in any case on account of priorities, whereas dusting can be carried on with the simplest kind of equipment. A 10-cent flour sieve, or even a common cotton sack, will serve if nothing else is available.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1942