



SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA

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NEWS OF CLUBS

NEW YORK—Throughout the country Science Centers have been established where functions on a regional scale can be carried on by clubs within convenient traveling distance of the Center. In New York State, for example, ten Centers have been established. Here are the schedules of forthcoming major events at these Centers:

(A Science Congress is a program given by members of science clubs. The members lecture to the assembled guests and demonstrate techniques they have mastered or exhibit new things they have developed. A Science Fair is an exhibition of projects which individuals or groups have completed. This information will enable you to visualize the activities here mentioned.)

BUFFALO, N. Y.—The Science Center for this section of New York State is at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Established in 1939, it serves five counties. From February 28 to March 8 it will hold the third Buffalo Salon of Photography. The Fourth Annual Science Congress of Western New York is scheduled for May 2. Both events are sponsored jointly by the Buffalo Museum and the Western Zone Science Section of New York State Teachers' Association. The Director of this Center is Harold T. Clement who also is Executive Secretary and Curator of Education at the Museum.

GLENS FALLS, N. Y.—A new Center has just started at Glen Falls. It serves four counties. On May 2 or 9 (the date is not yet established) a Science Congress will be held. The director of this Center is Robert King of Glens Falls High School.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.—The Science Clubs in seven counties in the vicinity of Middletown comprise the Middletown Science Center. On March 28 a Science Fair will be held by these clubs. This is the third fair to be held under the auspices of this Center at the local high school. The Director is Hollis F. Herrick of Middletown High School.

ONEONTA, N. Y.—Always extremely active is this science Center serving the affiliated clubs in five counties. A Fourth Annual Science Congress and Photographic Salon will be held on May 2 by the clubs in this Center. Mrs. Madeleine F. Coutant of Oneonta Senior High School is the Director.

PERU, N. Y.—Serving two counties the Peru Science Center, sponsored jointly by Peru Central High School and North Eastern Zone Science Teachers' Association, will hold a Science Fair on April 25. Merton Bromley of Peru Central High School is Director of this Center.

POTSDAM, N. Y.—Plans are now under way for a major activity for members of Science Clubs included in the Potsdam area. This Center serves four counties and is directed by Howard Vivyan of Potsdam High School. As soon as details are completed we will let you know of the nature of the activities.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Excellent demonstrations are always given at the Rochester Science Fairs. This year the Fair will be held from March 30 through April 3. This Center serves eleven counties and is under the direction of Harry A. Carpenter, Specialist of Science at the Rochester Public Schools.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.—Union College will be the site for this year's major activity covering the Science Clubs in the six counties served by the Schenectady Science Center. This center is directed by Robert E. Murray of Washington Irving Junior High School.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.—Defense bonds and stamps will be awarded for outstanding contributions to the program of the Syracuse Science Center. This will be a Congress held on April 25 for the Science Clubs in the thirteen counties served by this Center. The event will be held at Syracuse University. Dr. Richard R. Armacost of Syracuse University is Director.

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.

New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for Better Living

Photographers can achieve economy in the use of acid rinse and fixing baths by means of a testing kit which tells whether a bath is exhausted or can still be used. The acetic acid used in these baths is priority material and difficult to obtain. The kit contains two bottles. The fluid of bottle "A," when added to an acid rinse, will turn purple if the acidity of the bath has fallen to a point where it can't be relied upon to be effective. The fluid of bottle "B," when added to a fixing bath, will produce a heavy yellow precipitate if the bath is exhausted.

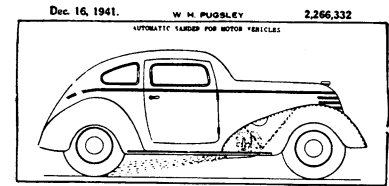
Depth of focus, without stopping down a lens, is obtained by using, in conjunction with the regular lens, an auxiliary lens which, electrically vibrated, alters the focus from near to distant, 23,200 times a minute. Moving objects are thus kept in focus from four feet to infinity. With the usual movie camera, the performers have to keep within chalk lines or they get out of focus. In a close-up, the face may be sharp but a distant background is hazy. With the new lens, all objects are in uniform soft focus which, from a pictorial point of view, is considered an advantage. The device is not adapted for still pictures.

Valuable electrical insulating materials that withstand high temperatures are byproducts of once neglected compounds of silicon and carbon, called silicones. By adding oxygen, the molecules acquired the power of grouping themselves in chains or polymers, thus forming resins which can be used to insulate the wires for electric motors. The new insulation enables the motors to run at a higher temperature and thus to carry a heavier load than would otherwise be possible. In this way they conserve critical materials by giving more power with less machinery.

Scissors that cut equally well from point to pivot have now been patented. They have blades that curve in opposite directions so that the edges meet at approximately the same angle throughout the whole cutting stroke. This is a principle already widely applied in trimmers and other shearing tools.

Cigars by the yard are almost literally produced by an automatic cigar-making machine recently patented. At least the filler is produced in a continuous stream, afterwards to be cut off to the proper lengths, shaped and wrapped. This is an English invention.

Icy pavements will be less hazardous to the motorist whose car is



equipped with the recently patented device shown in the illustration, even if his tires are retreaded with inferior rubber. By means of a rotary pump, this device throws sand under the wheels whenever the vehicle is starting up or making a quick stop. This automatic control is obtained by a pendulum which swings backward when the car is starting, or forward when the car is stopping. In either case, it opens a valve that starts the sanding motor.

Blackout window shades are now obtainable which are coated with a special light tight paper. Clamps are provided to hold the shade flush against the window sill, and clips to hold it all around tight against the window casing.

A short wave radio telephone transmitter and receiver, built just like the ordinary French telephone but considerably larger, is now available. However, the outfit is small enough to hold to the ear and mouth in the usual way, and weighs only four pounds. A metal rod extending upward from the receiver forms the antenna. Batteries are contained in the apparatus, and a switch on the handle enables the operator to change from transmitting to receiving, and vice versa. The range is somewhat more than a mile. Use of the device is of course subject to licensing by the Federal Communications Commission.

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 93. Science News Letter, February 28, 1942

The common deer mouse can climb trees.

The U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps has introduced substitutes for 800 articles previously used.

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