

GENERAL SCIENCE

Colleges Train 172,000 Youths; Ready By Beginning of 1943

Speed-Up Courses and Change to Three-Term System Hurries Graduation and Avoids Seasonal Peak

BY JANUARY, 1943, a new force of 172,000 young men and women will be ready to tackle the technical problems of war for Government and war industries. Already they are streaming from colleges, universities and technical schools as a result of speed-ups in educational programs.

This is revealed by a count just completed of the college students being trained for 103 war-vital occupations as picked by the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel. The survey was conducted by the American Council of Education at the special request of the National Resources Planning Board.

A majority of the 812 institutions surveyed are already teaching a capacity load of students in the fields where manpower shortages are developing. Dr. C. S. Marsh, vice-president, indicated in his report of the survey. Courses are being compacted, vacations shortened and the three-term college year is being substi-

tuted for the time-honored semester system.

Graduation comes at least a month earlier than it used to in the majority of the institutions studied. One technological school is delivering to industry twice its usual number of trained youth, and is doing it in 16 months less time.

Seasonal peaks are also being ironed out of the college-trained manpower supply by changes in teaching policy and speed-ups of courses. Although June is still the favorite month for cap-and-gown processions and the awarding of degrees, there is now a steadier flow throughout the whole year. This is the tempo at which 1942's graduates will become available for war employment.

Already graduated in February or March, 12,000; in April or May, 43,000; June or July 74,000; August or September 13,000; December or January, 1943, 29,000.

Special courses have been organized by colleges to aid in the war program. Many have night classes in the ESMDT

(Engineering, Science, and Management Defense Training) courses administered by the U. S. Office of Education. Others have turned over dormitories and classrooms for use of Army and Navy fliers. Laboratories have been turned over to the Government for military research and faculty members have been loaned.

Special courses bearing on war problems, such as camouflage, explosives, tactics, map-making, radio communication, cryptography, and military law have been organized.

The colleges and universities are facing a manpower problem of their own, meantime. Skilled scientists are being taken from teaching jobs to do military research. Enrollments of students are dropping off, too, but this does not balance the loss of faculty members. The professors most needed in war research are those teaching in the physical sciences. Their loss is not balanced by the drop in numbers of music students. Student enrollments have decreased most sharply in the liberal arts courses, teacher training and law schools.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1942

MEDICINE

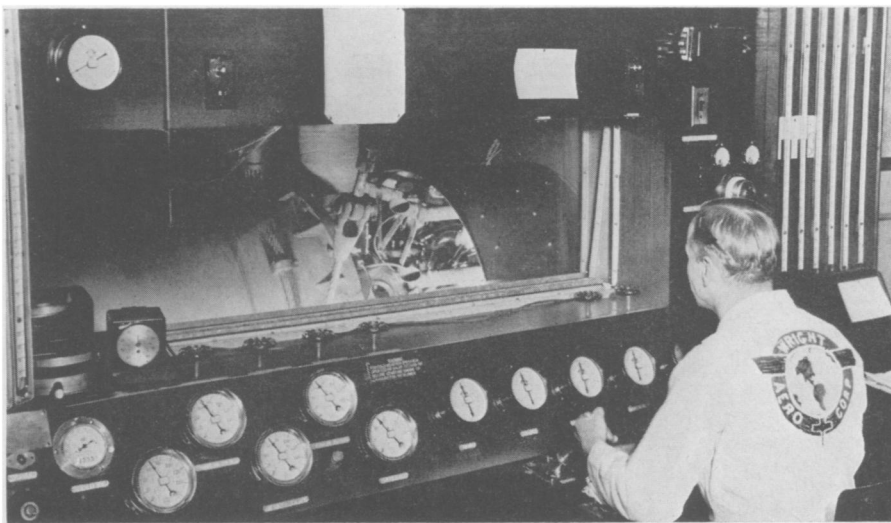
Simple Treatment Works For Foot Wound from Nail

FOR getting men back on the job safely and quickly after foot wounds caused by stepping on nails, simple treatment is best, in the opinion of Dr. Fred H. Bowen, Lieutenant (j.g.) in the U. S. Naval Reserve.

Such treatment cured 661 nail puncture wounds of the foot in construction workers at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., with an average disability of 0.6 days, he reports to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. (May 30)

Preliminary soaking of the foot in hot water for 15 to 30 minutes is an important part of the treatment. Dr. Bowen explains that this dilates the small blood vessels and brings into the wound an exudation of lymph, "the best germicidal agent in the body." The rest of the treatment consists, essentially, of painting an area around the wound with tincture of mercurin, picking or swabbing out the dirt that can be seen when the edges of the wound are held apart, and bandaging with a dry dressing.

Tetanus antitoxin is given and if the nail that caused the injury is larger than a 10 penny, the patient is given crutches and told not to work for at



POSTGRADUATE

This engineer is one of 600, graduated two months ahead of schedule in the American college speed-up-for-war program, who have entered a post-graduate training course in the Curtiss-Wright plants. In the photograph, an airplane engine is being tested.