

the rate, rhythm and depth of breathing, are disturbed. The respirator is rarely effective and sometimes harmful when the difficulty in breathing is caused by the collection of mucus or other material resulting from paralysis of the mechanism involved in swallowing, the mechanism which ordinarily keeps things from going down the "Sunday throat." Doctors stress that the iron lung is not a device of desperation. It is most useful in protecting the muscles of the many mild cases of paralysis.

The respirator is a motor-driven device which enables the lungs to take in and expel air with a minimum use of the muscles which normally perform this function.

A final word as to the seriousness of

infantile paralysis is contained in the opinion of Dr. Josephine B. Neal, visiting neurologist of the Willard Parker Hospital, New York City, who points out that while infantile paralysis "is perhaps the disease most feared by parents, its seriousness is really over-estimated when one considers the following facts:" 1. The "undoubtedly" large number of light cases which cannot be accurately diagnosed, but which confer immunity (it may be that your child is so protected); 2. The large percentage of cases of the type where there is no paralysis; 3. Cases in which, though paralysis is present, if proper treatment is begun early enough, patients will recover with little or no disability.

Science News Letter, June 13, 1942

GENERAL SCIENCE

Each College a West Point or Annapolis in Proposed Plan

System of Federal Scholarships Urged To Aid Officer Material Among Boys Financially Unable To Pay Tuition

TO MOBILIZE young men of college age most effectively for war service, a system of Federal military scholarships is being advocated by an educational group under the leadership of President James B. Conant of Harvard. Every major college would become a sort of West Point or Annapolis under this plan.

About 250,000 boys graduating from high schools each year would enter training at colleges and universities throughout the nation with the aim of becoming officers in the immense army that the nation is organizing to win the war.

At present three plans are put forth by the Navy and the Army under which

about 160,000 are expected to enter college to continue for a time their studies with some chance of becoming leaders in the military services. One of these is the Navy V-1 plan under which the boys are likely to stay in college for two years. The Army has two plans: the aviation cadet program now underway and the Army enlisted corps just announced.

Young men of 16 to 21 in college and about to go to college, President Conant finds, are "perplexed and bewildered" as to how they may best serve their country. They are told, on the one hand, that they may best serve by continuing their studies, while on the other hand, the Army and the Navy are undertaking active recruiting among them.

Pointing out that this is a problem of life or death with many of them, President Conant advocates that the young men and the colleges should be relieved of the responsibilities of making such decisions.

Neither should potential officer training by the colleges be limited to those whose parents have enough money to send them to college, it is argued. In many cases just as much ability exists among the 350,000 high school male graduates who do not go on to college as among the 250,000 who enter college.

● RADIO

Saturday, June 20, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. George C. Vaillant, director of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, will speak about America's Anonymous Inventors, the Indians.

Tuesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m., EWT

Science Clubs of America programs over WRUL, Boston, on 6.04, 9.70 and 11.73 megacycles.

One in a series of regular periods over this short wave station to serve science clubs, particularly in the high schools, throughout the Americas. Have your science group listen in at this time.

The proposed plan would remedy the inequality of educational opportunity that now keeps many intellectually capable boys from going to college and, at present, taking the first step toward a military commission.

The proposed plan might apply to 100,000 young men each year and would cost about \$100,000,000 a year to get started. Regional or state boards would be established to pick out the boys who would receive the scholarships and the training would take place at colleges near their homes.

In its present form the Federal scholarship plan would need Congressional authorization to be inaugurated and it would supplement the Army and Navy plans for those who enlist under the present training plans. Girls are not included in present plans.

President Conant announced the proposed plan at the Harvard War Institute for newspaper men.

Science News Letter, June 13, 1942

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