



Science Clubs Help in War



Since September 1942 the number of clubs in Science Clubs of America has doubled. There are now more than 2,192 of them all hard at work in their school laboratories, in home workshops, in basement laboratories, in club quarters of assorted kinds. They are learning science but they are applying this knowledge right now in real active service on the home front. Any interested group may join the SCA without cost. Write to 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

Well aware of the shortage of trained scientists and skilled workmen, the tens of thousands of boys and girls who make up Science Clubs of America are studying their favorite sciences to prepare themselves as professional scientists, or as accomplished amateurs but are making every effort to give their country the benefit of their training now.

Members range in age from 10 years up but their range of activities is amazing. They buy war stamps and bonds as do all patriotic Americans. They collect rubber, silk, metal, books for service men, and myriads of other materials that civilians have been called upon to collect or conserve. They belong to their school Victory Corps and handle most of the science assignments in it. They volunteer individually or in groups for the protection of the civilians in their communities. They give and take courses in home nursing and first aid. Many have given blood. They build model planes by the hundreds and send them away for instructing civilians and service men in plane detection. They conserve food and show others how to eat nutritious meals in spite of rationing. In every way they attempt to conform to their war time world.

But these members of Science Clubs of America are not content to contribute just what is expected of them. They go farther than that and though their school work is heavier in these days of accelerated programs they find time to do a great assortment of war service which they have designed and set for themselves in the pattern of ingenuity that is American.

News of their war work comes in regularly to SCA headquarters. They have a double reason for reporting. First, it is the tradition among scientists to share information with one another, and, second, every club that finds a good way to contribute to winning the war is patriotically required to pass along the news to other clubs.

Only a few club reports can be given here but enough to show the sincere and effective work being done voluntarily by members of Science Clubs of America from coast to coast.

JAMESTOWN, N. D.—The Science Club in the Jamestown Junior High School, with 29 members, 15 years of age or less, keeps the public informed on science in the war effort by regular weekly radio broadcasts over KSJB. In their salvage drive they concentrate on rubber jar rings and have collected many pounds. Miss Epsy Colling is the sponsor of these 17 boys and 12 girls.

ALTO, TEX.—The 30 members of the George Washington Carver Club of Booker T. Washington High School are newly organized but are already alleviating the manpower shortage. They have repaired the electric clocks and bells in their school, wired the church in their community for electricity, painted their school building and in their spare time have held lengthy discussions on science and war. Their sponsor is Mr. V. E. Tinsley, principal of the school.

CARSON CITY, MICH.—A few of the projects going on in the new club at Carson City High School, called the Searchers, are: an attempt to develop a rayon with a finer thread and a higher gloss; experiments on plastics, industrial alcohols, sugars from new sources, and medicines. The physics members are helping to equip the laboratory by repairing old and manufacturing new pieces of apparatus, mostly electrical. If the science classes in this school are overcrowded next year the blame may rest on the enthusiasm aroused among the students by an exciting program staged by the club. A feature of this was a demonstration of a thermite incendiary bomb and incendiary "calling cards," followed by a demonstration of how these menaces can be brought under control. Mr. Hubert C. Smith is the sponsor.

CLAYTON, MO.—The increased volume of subject matter presented to students in today's accelerated programs is being taken care of in the John Burroughs School in an efficient manner. The 33 members of the Langmuir Chapter, under the sponsorship of Mr. E. S. Obourn, head of the science department, have undertaken the responsibility of training younger students in the school in the following: meteorology, aeronautics, radio, automobiles, and photography. Since this club has been in existence a number of years the members, whose ages range from 14 to 18, have had the benefit of years of study of their own special interests in many fields.

GREAT NECK, N. Y.—The Agassiz Club of 30 boys and 14 girls in Great Neck High School is sponsored by George E. Noyes who is a Biology teacher. The members are now in the process of getting their victory gardens started. They

have grown large numbers of tomato and other seedlings for distribution to all members and their families and hope to raise some money for the club by selling excess plants.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Rev. Thomas Reidy, O.S.F.S., of the Northeast Catholic High School for Boys, has a club of 20 between 14 and 18. They are especially keen about microtechniques in bacteriology. Recently they made an incubator for some of their work in embryology and found it equally useful in the culture of plates that require regulated temperatures. Their war work concentrates on first aid and they have made an intensive study of medicinal plants.

PORT ARTHUR, TEX.—Mr. Charles Ross, science teacher in the Stephen F. Austin School, sponsors the Senior Science Club which has 18 members ranging from 13 to 18 years of age. The club makes model airplanes and learns first aid, issues weather predictions twice daily and maintains a photographic dark room. Whenever an ex-member now in the armed forces comes home, they hold a special meeting to talk over old times and listen to suggestions from the returned service man on how to study now to be ready for future service. Members also put on chemical magic shows before meetings of the P.T.A., and other groups.

MITCHELL, S. D.—The Bi-Ways Club of Senior High School has as their sponsor the biology instructor, Miss Helen Field Watson. They have carried on experiments for more than a year on various kinds of fertilizers in relation to plant growth. Now, with fertilizer use restricted, they are concentrating on the study of how the disposal from their local sewage system can be used in the raising of crops in their community.

CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE—The sixteen members of Torrid Zone Wizards are newly organized under Mr. Carl F. Maedl in the Cristobal High School. They plan to make collections of the flora and fauna of their community. But they also study metals essential for war industries so they will know what to save and salvage.

CAMP HILL, PA.—The Lawrence Science Club is organized in Camp Hill High School with Mr. D. L. Knohr, head of the Science Department, as sponsor. The 21 members, all boys, are 14 to 18 years old. Their club is eight years old. They conserve their rare chemical laboratory supplies and show war films to the student body. They have repaired the bell-wiring system for the school; installed stage-lighting, including rheostats.

To be useful in their community they take first aid, serve as airplane spotters, spot and report erosion problems, plant trees.

The club has great sport exploring caves near them.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y.—Miss Gertrude Wheeler, biology teacher, is sponsor of the Biological Club in A. B. Davis High School. The 14 boys and 4 girls who compose this 3-year-old club are putting all their efforts this year on the study of blood. They are learning to make red and white blood counts, blood smears and their interpretations. Blood typing will come later and urinalysis. Many members of this club want to be medical technicians.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.—Rev. John E. Messner, S.M., is the sponsor of Kappa Sigma Kappa in the Central Catholic High School. Its 40 members are all boys between 15 and 17. Among other patriotic ventures, they have lately helped officials to clean up the neighborhood of household pests such as rats, roaches, etc. The members learned how essential such precautions are to public health and were glad to do their part to fill in for authorities now busy with other war work.

SOUTH BEND, IND.—Eighteen boys and 2 girls compose the Science Club of John Adams High School. Their sponsor is Mr. Paul Reber, science teacher. The club is actively studying chemistry, biology, astronomy, physics, aviation and navigation. They have started to build a 6-inch reflecting telescope. To enrich their program they have joined the Indiana Junior Academy of Science, the St. Joe Valley Astronomers Club and the local branch of the American Chemical Society. Recent meetings have been devoted to the subject of synthetic rubber, learning to use the slide rule and chemical warfare.

BRONX, N. Y.—The Aeronautical Society of the High School of Science is wholly devoted to the study of all fields of flying. The forty members—all boys—have a record to aspire to for though their club is only 3 years old many of their former members are already air cadets, instructors or on the ground crews of the air corps. Dr. Alexander Joseph, Instructor in Aeronautics, is their sponsor and shares their intense interest in aviation.

While they spend much of their meeting time in making models, experimenting and preparing themselves for ultimate army or navy air service they are not too busy to serve their community. They have built equipment for other aeronautics classes, built and erected air craft spotting equipment, prepared demonstration wind tunnels, and set up pilot trainers.