

and Miss Joan McAllister, appears in *Science*. (Jan. 7) The Mayo Clinic experiments were reported last month by Dr. F. R. Heilman and Dr. W. E. Herrell in the clinic's own publication.

The two penicillin failures, reported

by the Harvard group, were in trypanosomiasis, one form of which is the deadly African sleeping sickness, and toxoplasmosis, a relatively new but almost always fatal disease.

*Science News Letter, January 15, 1944*

## EDUCATION

## Science Talent Search

About 15,000 high school boys and girls entered the third annual contest for \$11,000 in science scholarships to be awarded 40 winners.

➤ ABOUT fifteen thousand high school seniors competed in the Third Annual Science Talent Search conducted by Science Clubs of America for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships.

Each contestant took the Science Talent Aptitude examination, submitted scholastic records and personal recommendations. Each contestant also submitted an essay of about 1,000 words entitled "My Scientific Project."

The fortunate forty boys and girls named as finalists are being invited to Washington for a five-day all-expenses-paid Science Talent Institute to be held March 3 to 7. During this time \$11,000 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships will be awarded. Honorable mentions will also be awarded by the judges.

The annual Science Talent Search is conducted by Science Service as a Science Clubs of America activity and is open to all seniors in public, private and parochial secondary schools. The current year's contest closed on Dec. 27.

The winners and honorable mentions of the Third Annual Science Talent Search will join with a growing group of boys and girls so honored in the two previous searches. The finalists and honorable mentions in the First and Second Annual Science Talent Searches are already receiving training in col-

leges, universities and technical schools or in the armed services.

The board of judges of the Science Talent Search is composed of Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory; Dr. Stuart Henderson Britt, now in the U. S. Navy but formerly director of the Office of Psychological Personnel of the National Research Council and consultant to the War Manpower Commission; and Dr. Harold A. Edgerton, director of Occupational Opportunities Service, the Ohio State University. The science aptitude examination was prepared by Drs. Britt and Edgerton.

The forty chosen to be invited to Washington for the March 3 to 7 Science Talent Institute include a number of girls determined by the percentage of girls who completed entries in the competition. Thus girls make their own chances in the Science Talent Search.

In March, two contestants, one boy and one girl, will be chosen to receive Westinghouse Grand Science Scholarships of \$2,400 each (\$600 per year for four years.) Eight finalists will receive Westinghouse Science Scholarships of \$400 each (\$100 per year for four years) and \$3,000 additional in scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the judges.

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## ASTRONOMY

## Planet Origin Theory

➤ DISCOVERY of other planetary systems than ours in the universe has given support to the idea that planets are created when a pulsating Cepheid star encounters another star at a moderate distance.

Dr. H. K. Sen, of Allahabad Univer-

sity in India, in a letter to the American Physical Society's *Physical Review* (Dec. 1 and 15, 1943), points out that this theory of planet formation advanced by another Indian scientist, Dr. A. C. Banerji, in 1942 is made more probable by the recent discovery by American as-

tronomers of two planetary objects outside our solar system, but each relatively close to us.

Under the older Jeans-Jeffreys tidal theory of the origin of planetary systems, there would be at most two planetary systems in our Milky Way galaxy created during the existence of the universe, Dr. Sen figures, whereas the Banerji theory allows many more, as seems probable because of the new discoveries.

The presence of planetary systems in binary stars, as discovered first by Dr. K. Aa. Strand in the 61 Cygni system, is very plausible in view of Dr. Sen's Cepheid theory of the origin of binary stars, he believes. In this case a Cepheid star, that periodically swells up and shrinks, breaks up into two stars because of the increase or angular velocity due to radiation of energy. The filament connecting the two stars affords a chance for planets to be formed by condensation.

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## PSYCHOLOGY

## Noises Give Vividness To Talking Books

➤ NOISES of a country fair, songs of birds and ak-ak of guns give vividness to talking books—long-playing phonograph records—for blind youngsters. Unable to enjoy visual illustrations which catch the attention of children able to see, books for the blind are illustrated in sound.

A sound-picture book which tells about life on a farm and country life in general is dramatized by recording the sounds of farm animals, farm machinery and a country fair. Here the sound forms an essential part of the book.

Books about animals lend themselves especially well to sound illustrations. The story of a small boy's visit to the zoo includes in the background the trumpeting of the elephant while he is shown around the elephant's house.

A frontispiece of characteristic sounds is also used. Each chapter of a book about the circus, for instance, may be introduced by the hammering of workmen, cries of barkers, or cheers of the crowd. The text is then presented as straight reading.

During the last few years a considerable number of educational talking books have been recorded under the auspices of the American Foundation for the Blind to demonstrate different ways in which sound effects could be used.

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