

EDUCATION

Teen-Agers View Navy

U. S. Navy, in cooperation with Science Clubs of America, will play host to 110 young scientists, providing them a first look into Navy science.

► TO SEE science at work in the Navy, a group of 110 teen-age boys picked as "Navy science cruisers" will spend five days at the end of September flying in Navy planes, going to sea aboard a big aircraft carrier and cruising in a battleships up the Atlantic coast.

The first postwar chance for young civilians to see Navy science in action is an activity of the Navy's Office of Naval Research working in cooperation with Science Service's Science Clubs of America.

Each Navy science cruiser will be identified with a specially designed brassard and will be required to keep a careful log of his observations to be turned over to the Navy at the end of the cruise.

The 110 boys named as Navy science cruisers were chosen through Science Clubs of America, the several boards of education and participating newspapers from the areas of New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, R. I., and Washington, D. C. Each boy was picked for ability in science shown by school records and achievement in events such as a science fair, science congress or the Annual Science Talent Search this year.

As guests of the U. S. Navy, the boys will fly from their home cities to Washington, D. C., and go on to Annapolis for a visit to the U. S. Naval Academy. There they will board the U.S.S. Randolph for a cruise at sea. From this aircraft carrier an air show will be staged for them. Putting into Norfolk, Va., the party will

board the U.S.S. Washington and the U.S.S. North Carolina and get acquainted with battleships as they cruise to New York City. A trip to Floyd Bennett field will complete their Navy science cruise and they will be returned to their home cities by Naval Air Transport.

Vice Admiral Harold G. Bowen, Chief of the Office of Naval Research, commenting on the Navy science cruiser program said, "As a result of the war and the lessons learned, it becomes essential that our new generation stress more than ever their education in science.

"This is necessary for several reasons: First, our country badly needs a new crop of research scientists to enable us to hold our own in the acquisition of new knowledge; second, an education in science is essential for our children to take their proper places in the new technological world; third, an education in science is essential in order that our young men will form a large reserve for future national defense which will depend to a much greater extent than heretofore on science."

Science Clubs of America, the organization for young scientists, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., has more than 250,000 boys and girls as members. It provides a year-round program for the more than 10,000 clubs affiliated and sponsors the Annual Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships.

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sonnel, showed that the proposed cancelling of deferments of scientific workers would have removed 12% to 20% of the professional scientific personnel of industrial laboratories in many cases. Universities would have lost 40% to 50% of their technically trained teachers and research workers.

The new policy allows deferment for those engaged in college teaching, advanced studies and university, industrial or foundation research in the physical sciences and engineering, supervisory, technical or scientific personnel "whose removal would significantly retard production in industries essential to reconversion and otherwise necessary to the national existence," and qualified and irreplaceable production workers in industries designated as critical by the Civilian Production Administration. Production workers included are those in veterans' housing, public health, food and famine relief, etc.

The Office of Scientific Research and Development will certify graduate students and research workers for deferment, the Office of Education will certify teachers, and the Civilian Production Administration will certify production workers.

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MEDICINE

Fever Blister Virus May Cause Brain Disease

► THE VIRUS that causes fever blisters and cold sores may also cause the serious brain inflammation, encephalitis. The cold sore virus was isolated from the brains of two men who died of encephalitis, Maj. Loring Whitman, Miss Margaret J. Wall and Capt. Joel Warren, of the Army Medical Center, report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Aug. 24). No mention of cold sores or fever blisters appeared in their medical histories, however.

When an epidemic of encephalitis, popularly known as sleeping sickness, swept around the world after the first World War, some scientists thought the cold sore virus was the cause of the disease, because it was isolated from spinal fluid or brain of patients. Other scientists did not agree.

Recent evidence besides that reported by the Army medical team now shows that the virus of cold sores and fever blisters, known medically as herpes, can cause encephalitis.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientists To Be Deferred

► SCIENTISTS and technical workers and teachers in research laboratories, industry and colleges will not be drafted into the armed forces in coming months as the result of a reversal of selective service policy.

This allays great concern among industrial, research and educational authorities over threatened drastic cancellation of deferments for scientific workers who have been deferred throughout the war to do essential war research.

Selective Service has issued to local

boards a revised Memorandum 115 concerning such deferments. This about-face resulted from a request to Selective Service from Director John Steelman of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, following a White House conference on July 23, when the disastrous effect of indiscriminate drafting of scientists, engineers and college teachers was made clear.

Information assembled by Dr. M. H. Trytten, director of the National Research Council's Office of Scientific Per-