



State Science Fairs and Searches



A Report to Science News Letter Readers

► **THE THIRD** of a million boys and girls who belong to the more than 14,000 clubs affiliated with Science Clubs of America are discovering that scientists and educators are seriously interested in helping them to become scientists.

Generosity of scientists toward promising young scientists is no new phenomenon, but this essential meeting of the experienced and inexperienced has never been so widespread and well planned before.

The feeling of responsibility on the part of adult scientists to encourage the boys or girls who shortly may be their assistants or co-workers has been gaining momentum steadily in the last decade.

This year, relieved of pressing wartime duties and responsibilities, scientists and educators have turned attention to the business and pleasure of giving promising youth the incentive that can come only from mutual understanding between individuals who "speak the same language."

In the 37 states now cooperating with Science Clubs of America, a Science Service activity, in this catalytic process of helping students to help themselves, the methods used are as interesting and varied as the individuals concerned.

Two highly successful methods have emerged: the Science Fair and the State Science Talent Search.

Science Fairs

► **THOUSANDS** of young scientists have brought the results of this year's work to science fairs. Well-known scientists have judged their efforts and awarded prizes to the best of them. Fairs provided powerful incentives for individuals to complete their experiments and present them publicly. They brought beginning and mature scientists together. They gave the public a chance to see new developments in science, graphically and skillfully explained by boys and girls. Most important of all, fairs gave each young scientist the inspiration and enthusiasm that is bound to result from meeting others of his own age working on similar problems.

Here are a few illustrations of successful science fairs:

Pittsburgh

The Buhl Planetarium was the scene again of the Pittsburgh School Science Fair held April 19 through May 3. Now in its eighth year this Fair has constantly improved its quality until now any exhibitor can take pride in being admitted to show his work there. Sponsored by the Planetarium and the PITTSBURGH PRESS, the Fair attracts students and visitors—more than 7,000 in the first week—from all western Pennsylvania and provides the climax of a year-round program of stimulation of science by educational, scientific, industrial and youth organizations in that area. Awards range from medals and cash to college scholarships and job recommendations.

New York City

The American Institute of the City of New York held its 14th School Science Fair Dec. 7-11 at Madison Square Garden after a wartime lapse of several years. The Fair attracted entrants from all schools in the metropolitan area. School classes roamed its exhibit-packed aisles during the day. The public by thousands studied it during the evening hours. Cash awards bolstered the budget of many a boy and girl and made possible bits of laboratory equipment and material needed to make a better exhibit for next year.

Providence, R. I.

The Second Annual Rhode Island Schools' Science Fair was the high spot of the season for young scientists in that area. Educational and scientific agencies of all kinds in the state cooperate with the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL in making this affair a thrill to the public as well as an event of real educational value to the exhibitors. From April 8 through 11 a total of 15,000 jammed Hope High School in Providence to see 576 exhibits from all parts of the state. Public, private and parochial schools recognize the event as one of important educational stimulation. Judges from the state and other states and scientists of note invited for the evening programs make this a week of great importance to the students and the public.

Washington, D. C.

The first annual Washington Science Fair was held in the Nation's Capital May 19-23 under the auspices of a committee of educators and scientists. More than 400 exhibitors of all ages showed their work at the Department of Commerce auditorium. Judges were scientists of national and international renown, who reported after several hours of button pushing and wheel turning that they had not had so much fun in years. The public enjoyed the same sport during the daytime and evening hours.

Buffalo, N. Y.

The Buffalo Museum of Science held its Fifth Annual Science Congress and Fourth Annual Buffalo Salon of Photography this year. Over 600 young scientists came from all parts of western New York. Youthful speakers and photographers were awarded cash, books, medals, trophies and trips to points of scientific interest. Planning and awards came from scientific, civic, industrial and educational organizations in that area.

► **MORE** information about cooperation with Science Clubs of America may be obtained by writing to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St. N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Talent Searches

► **ABOUT** 16,000 high school seniors this year entered the Sixth Annual Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships, sponsored by Science Clubs of America, administered by Science Service and made financially possible by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation. From this number 40 were named as winners and 260 received honorable mention. In addition, a large number of other very fine students were cared for by several states that considered them for state awards. Some of the State Science Talent Searches already reported are:

Georgia

A committee of judges appointed by the Georgia Junior Academy of Science chose five from 23 entrants in the national competition to receive state honors and awarded each \$50. All of the boys were recommended to Georgia colleges and universities for scholarship consideration.

Illinois

While four students from this state were winners in the national competition and 13 others were named for honorable mention, the Illinois State Academy of Science considered others worthy of honors and named a total of 31 for state honors. Nine different colleges and universities in that state gave them outright scholarships or other financial assistance that will enable them to continue their science education.

Iowa

The Iowa Junior Academy of Science honored nine students out of the 56 that entered the national competition. These nine were offered full tuition freshman scholarships at Iowa State College. These scholarships were created for the first time to make it possible for these promising students to go on with their studies.

Louisiana

A committee of the Louisiana Academy of Science selected three boys for state honors. Two of them had also won honorable mention in the national competition. All were recommended to colleges and universities in the state for scholarship assistance.

Virginia

The Virginia Academy of Science, conducting their Science Talent Search for the second time, narrowed their 120 contestants down to 42 by requiring each of them to show their work at one Open House at any of six colleges and universities in the state. From the 42 the committee selected 15 for state honors. Each received a \$50 savings bond and assistance in gaining entrance to the school of his choice within the state. Five of the 15 had won honorable mention in the national competition. All were entertained by the Academy at its two-day state meeting.