GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Draft Defeated

➤ THE Defense Department has just been defeated in an attempt to grab off control of all highly skilled personnel in the country—scientific and otherwise—and has withdrawn to previously prepared positions. Here is what happened:

Members of a Senate armed forces subcommittee, considering the Gurney bill to draft doctors aand dentists, slipped into the bill provisions for registering and drafting personnel in scientific, professional, technical and other occupational categories. It is believed this was done with the knowledge of the Defense Department. If it had passed in this form, the Defense Department, through Selective Service, would have had top priority on the best brains and skills of the country, throwing the leavings to vital private industry and university laboratories.

At this point the National Security Resources Board stepped in with an amendment which would have taken control away from Selective Service and put it in the hands of President Truman. Under the plan he was expected to set up a civilian board of experts to allocate this precious talent where it could best be used, whether in or out of uniform. This would have been done through a provision for deferment "in the national interest."

N.S.R.B. was not yet ready to take this step, but the move forced the top civilian planning board to show its hand with some of its manpower plans.

When the Defense Department saw that N.S.R.B. would probably win out in placing control of scientists and other highly skilled citizens in the President's hands, it suddenly showed no more interest in anybody but doctors and dentists. Thus the bill, when it is signed by the President, will provide for the drafting of members of the healing arts professions and those in allied categories only.

Now the scientists are beginning to organize. They will present plans to President Truman and to the N.S.R.B. which envisage the efficient usage of this highly valuable manpower.

Science News Letter, September 9, 1950

NUTRITION

Egg Has Best Amino Acid Distribution

➤ A WHOLE egg rates at the top of the protein nourishment scale in having the best distribution of 17 amino acids, or protein building blocks.

This finding, made with a new "measuring stick" for determining the nourishing values of protein, was announced by the Rutgers University Bureau of Biological Research in New Brunswick.

In descending order of value, the other protein sources studied were: egg white (albumen), beef or milk, peanut flour and wheat gluten.

Ten colleges and universities and 13 industrial laboratories made this study.

Science News Letter, September 9, 1950