GENERAL SCIENCE

Search for Science Talent

The national search for students possessing scientific ability is entering its tenth year. The present Korean situation points up the need for such talent.

➤ A NATIONWIDE search for boys and girls with research ability in science started Sept. 28.

High school seniors in 27,000 public, private and parochial schools in continental USA were invited to enter the Tenth Annual Science Talent Search and compete for $11,000 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships to continue their education in science. In announcing the Science Talent Search for the tenth consecutive time, Watson Davis, director of Science Service, which conducts the search through Science Clubs of America, called the attention of school administrators to the need for more people trained in science.

"The present Korean situation," Mr. Davis said, "points up the urgency of keeping our scientific resources constantly replenished so our country will be in a state of readiness to move forward in war or peace. The greatest resource is the talent of our boys and girls. It must be recognized and cultivated wherever it can be found."

Principals and science teachers in secondary schools throughout the country are now receiving instructions on "How To Search for Science Talent." They will learn how to recognize science talent among their students and encourage those boys and girls to enter the Tenth Annual Science Talent Search.

They will send for and after Nov. 15 receive about 14,000 sets of entry materials so their qualifying seniors can enter the competition for $11,000 in scholarships. Thousands of seniors will comply with all requirements for entry right in their own schools.

From the 14,000 entries it is estimated about 3,500 will complete all entry requirements. Of these, 40 will be named as national winners and will receive 5-day, all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D. C., to attend the Annual Science Talent Institute.

Another 260 will be named for honorable mention. All 300 will be recommended to colleges, universities and technical schools of their own choice. As in the past, it is expected many will receive offers of financial assistance for college educations from other sources on the basis of this honor.

To comply with entry rules each contestant must take a three-hour science aptitude examination in his own school, submit personal and scholastic records and write a report of about 1,000 words on "My Scientific Project." The examination may be taken anytime from Dec. 11 through Dec. 16.

All entries must be in the offices of Science Clubs of America by midnight, Wednesday, Dec. 27, when the competition closes.

Winners and honorable mentions will be announced late in January, 1951, and the 40 winners will come to Washington, D. C., in March, 1951. After five days of meeting the nation's outstanding scientists, of learning about the latest developments in science and of visiting places of historic and scientific interest, the winners will receive scholarships ranging in size from $100 to $2,800.

Through the nine years of its existence the Annual Science Talent Search has located 360 winners and 2,340 honorable mentions. These young people are now making their mark in scientific circles. Many of them already have from one to four degrees in science and are active as chemists, physicicts, doctors, mathematicians, engineers, biologists, astronomers and in many other fields of science. Some have made important contributions to their fields of study and others are well along in their preparation to do so.

The objectives of the Science Talent Search are:

1. To discover and foster the education of boys and girls whose scientific skill, talent and ability indicate potential creative originality and warrant scholarships for their development.

2. To focus the attention of large numbers of scientifically gifted youths on the need for perfecting scientific and research skill and knowledge so that they can increase their capacities for contributing to the rehabilitation of a war-dislocated world and to help the United States, with the aid of science, to lead the world to permanent peace.

3. To help make the American public aware of the varied and vital role science plays in world affairs and in raising the standard of living.

High school seniors in some states will have a double chance to win scholarships through state Science Talent Searches run concurrently with the national competition and by special arrangement with Science Clubs of America.

In 1951 the following states will hold these competitions: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The Science Talent Search is conducted annually by Science Clubs of America, administered by Science Service. It is made financially possible by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

For complete details of the Science Talent Search write to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Science News Letter, October 14, 1950

ICHTHYOLOGY

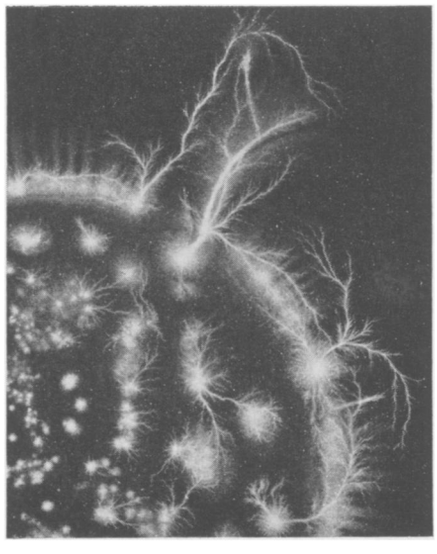
Lime in Lake Gives More, Better Trout and Bass

➤ FROM stunted bullheads and undersized panfish to shining lake trout and fresh water bass is the transformation wrought by two Wisconsin scientists who sowed ordinary lime in small, swamp-surrounded bog lakes.

Drs. Arthur D. Hasler and Oscar M. Brynildson of the University of Wisconsin found they could change the chemical character of lake water—and enable more and better fish to live in it—by treating certain lakes in the same way farmers fertilize their soil, using lime to combat acidity.

The zoologists found lime reduced the brown, acid discoloration of water in swamp-fed lakes. Sunlight could then penetrate and more plants would grow on the bottom, thereby increasing the oxygen content of the water. Presto, trout and bass could live in the lakes, where before there had not been enough air for these fighting fish.

Science News Letter, October 14, 1950



ELECTRONS MULTIPLY — The photograph portrays the breakdown of nitrogen gas under a high transient electric voltage. From pictures of this type, scientists are learning more about the detailed mechanisms by which electrons and ions destroy insulating materials.