

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Talent Detectable

Science Talent Searches of past 12 years show that aptitude for science can be detected at least by last year of high school, survey of past winners determines.

► WHEN IS it possible to tell whether a child will develop into a scientist or engineer? A 12-year experiment has proved it can be determined almost conclusively by the time a boy or girl is a high school senior. There is growing evidence which indicates that it may be established even at a much earlier age.

Since 1942 the Annual Science Talent Search, conducted by Science Clubs of America, administered by SCIENCE SERVICE, has been in the process of proving that potential scientists can be detected when they are teen-agers.

Each year 40 of the country's most promising high school seniors are named winners. Although it is too soon to say definitely that winners in more recent years are going to be scientists, speculative conclusions seem to have been proved by winners of the first six Science Talent Searches.

Of the 240 who were winners from 1942 through 1947, a total of 225 (over 93%) are now trained scientists and engineers. None is more than 30 years of age.

Undergraduate degrees already are held by 221 of the 240. Among these, 62 have masters' degrees. Doctorates have been conferred upon 41.

Advanced study still takes the full time of 102 of the 240. Industry employs 46. Teaching or research positions in colleges and universities are held by 23. The armed services are using 18. Homemaking and child care claim the full time of 18 of the 63 women winners. Nine practice medicine privately or in hospitals. Eight hold positions in government science laboratories. One winner is chronically ill. Another is deceased. The present occupation of 14 is not known.

As a measure of their ability it is worth noting that of these 240 a total of 74 have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, general scholarship fraternity, 27 are in Tau Beta Pi, the honorary engineering society, and 67 are already members of Sigma Xi, the science research society.

With the present acute shortage of scientists and engineers, which is further imperiled by drops in school enrollment at the secondary and college levels, any tool which can be used for early detection of latent science talent is highly desirable.

The detection technique has been applied through the Science Talent Search to thousands of high school seniors during the past 12 years. As a result, 3,600 young men and young women—40 winners and 260 honorable mentions each year—have received direct assistance to further their education in science.

A total of \$121,000 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships has been awarded through the Science Talent Search, made possible financially by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation.

Additional scholarships, fellowships and other financial assistance to these 3,600 winners has come from many sources. It has amounted to millions of dollars.

A boost to still other hundreds of students has come as the direct results of State Science Talent Searches now in operation in 26 states, working on a cooperative plan with Science Clubs of America.

Through these state searches, additional thousands of dollars worth of scholarships are awarded to promising high school seniors in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1953

PUBLIC HEALTH

World Organization Fights for Health

► THE WORLD Health Organization, known informally as WHO, is one of the largest specialized agencies of the United Nations. It is dedicated by its constitution to work for "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health."

Today WHO, established as a permanent body on Sept. 1, 1948, has a total membership of 82 countries in all parts of the world, including three Associate and 10 inactive Members.

Membership is open to all States, for the aim of WHO is to represent all mankind. But membership is not a condition of assistance. WHO is prepared to give help wherever need exists.

WHO is waging a battle for health, not merely against disease. It operates a system of international radio warning of dangerous epidemic diseases anywhere in the world, as an aid to protection of health everywhere. It establishes standards for uniform strength of drugs throughout the world.

Today, for example, everyone who is given a dose of penicillin, every child who is protected by diphtheria anti-toxin, gets added safety because the dose is measured in international units.

In its work towards promoting physical,

mental and social well-being for all, WHO carries out projects for improving the sanitary conditions under which people live, seeks to improve nutrition standards, and pays particular attention to the health needs of mothers and children.

It aims at improving and expanding the nursing services, promotes the development of preventive mental health work and provides services on occupational health and medical rehabilitation.

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A machine has been developed that automatically grades eggs according to their color—from white to dark brown.

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