



SUMMER WORK FOR SEARCH WINNER—Everett C. Dade, 17, of Dover, N. H., a top winner in the 1954 Science Talent Search (see SNL, March 13, 1954), spent this summer at the National Bureau of Standards programming problems for the electronic computer.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Talent Search Under Way

➤ A NATIONWIDE search is now under way to find the 40 most promising science-minded high school seniors in the country.

The Fourteenth Annual Science Talent Search was launched with an invitation to seniors in 27,000 public, private and parochial schools throughout the land. They will have the opportunity to compete for \$11,000 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships and a five-day visit to Washington. Valuable honorable mention status will go to 260 others.

The results of the search will reveal who among this year's seniors will be the nation's leading scientists of the future, and will stimulate others to undertake scientific training.

The Science Talent Search is conducted by SCIENCE SERVICE and supported by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation. Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, in announcing this year's Search, called attention to the growing shortage of scientists and engineers, a shortage that hampers the nation's industrial and defense programs.

"Creative scientists and technologists so urgently needed by our civilization are being found and nurtured by the National Science Talent Search," Mr. Davis said. "The success of those who have won previous honors shows that this method of selection works with effectiveness.

"Colleges are justified in the weight they give National Science Talent Search ratings when they give scholarships and grant admissions," Mr. Davis said.

Principals and science teachers in secondary schools throughout the country are now

receiving instructions on "How You Can Search for Science Talent." They will learn how to recognize science talent among their students.

All entries for the Search must reach the Washington office of Science Clubs by midnight, Monday, Dec. 27. Winners and honorable mentions will be announced late in January, 1955, and the 40 winners will come to Washington Feb. 24-28, 1955.

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

Science News Letter, October 2, 1954

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Cataracts Caused by Allergy to Penicillin

➤ AN ALLERGIC reaction to penicillin, famous mold remedy for germ infections, has caused cataracts in a 39-year-old man, Dr. Ruby K. Daniel of Dallas, Tex., reported at the International Congress of Ophthalmology meeting in New York.

The patient took penicillin for an ear infection. This brought on a severe and incapacitating skin trouble which lasted two months. The cataracts seemed to have followed. The patient insisted that his eyesight was normal until he had the skin trouble.

The case is the latest of a number of allergy-caused cataracts in young people which Dr. Daniel has seen. Not all were due to penicillin allergy.

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AERONAUTICS

Helicopter Booster May Save Lives

➤ A LIGHTWEIGHT power booster for helicopters could spell life or death for wounded Marines awaiting rescue from mountain clearings.

Although the whole system weighs only 67 pounds, including its fuel tank perched atop the helicopter's rotor, it permits a Marine Corps HRS-2 helicopter to lift six men per load from a 5,000-foot hilltop clearing. Because of the thinner air, the machine ordinarily could evacuate only three wounded at this altitude.

Used momentarily for extra take-off power, the booster consists of three small rockets attached to the three blades of the HRS-2. The rockets burn hydrogen peroxide.

The power booster helps the loaded machine climb into the sky. After forward speed has been attained, the main piston-type engine easily keeps the machine aloft.

To gain the same extra take-off lift without rockets, the helicopter's engine would have to be increased about 200 pounds and its power-transmission gears strengthened.

Although designed to "fit" Marine HRS-2 'copters, it can be adapted to any helicopter, its manufacturers, Reaction Motors, Inc., say.

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PEDIATRICS

High Altitude Babies Lightweights at Birth

➤ BABIES BORN at the high altitude of 10,000 feet at Leadville, Colo., and surrounding Lake County are lightweights. They average three-quarters of a pound less at birth than babies born in Denver, which is at half that height.

This puts many of these babies technically in the premature class since doctors classify babies as premature if they weigh five and one-half pounds or less at birth.

The Lake County lightweight babies, however, are not otherwise abnormal and seem to be as healthy as full-weight babies. Mothers of these lightweight babies do not eat any differently and their general social and economic status does not seem any different from mothers of so-called normal weight babies. There does not seem to be any racial difference, either.

About the only factor that can account for the babies being born lightweights seems to be the lower oxygen supply at the high altitude of Lake County. Scientists of the University of Colorado School of Medicine will make a two-year study of this factor at St. Vincent's Hospital, Leadville, with the aid of a \$10,000 grant from Playtex Park Research Institute of Dover, Del.

The findings are expected to be important for small, technically premature babies everywhere.

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