

GENERAL SCIENCE

New Science Service Building Located on N Street Northwest

For 17 Years Guest of National Academy of Sciences
And National Research Council, Now in Own Quarters

See Front Cover

AFTER two decades of activity, Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science, which publishes the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, is occupying a building of its own in Washington.

Upon a quiet street in the heart of our war-busy National Capital, the Science Service staff does its daily work in this four story brick building, located by chance just around the corner from the temporary quarters where in 1921 Science Service had its beginnings.

For 17 years Science Service had been the guest of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council in their monumental building on Constitution Avenue opposite Lincoln Memorial. When that building was erected, because of its close connection with the Academy and the Council, Science Service was invited to make its offices there. With the growth of Science Service and the coming of intensified national defense effort on the part of scientific agencies, that building became crowded, so much so that in recent months the exhibit halls of the building have been converted to offices.

Realizing the impending pressure for space, Science Service in the early spring of this year located and purchased a suitable building at 1719 N St., N.W., which during the summer was remodeled from a large residence into a suitable home for Science Service.

A feature of the new Science Service building is a conference room on the first floor suitable for meetings of from a dozen to fifty or more people. Upon this floor is also located the office of the director, the library and kitchen facilities for occasional use during meetings. The ground floor affords mailing, duplication, addressing and storage rooms, as well as entrance lobby.

The editorial or second floor has individual offices for staff writers and it is here that teletypes hum, bringing in the latest science news from meetings and other localities, and typewriters click out

the copy that appears in reports to newspapers and other Science Service product.

Accounting, subscription and promotion offices are located on the third floor, together with rooms for the use of visiting trustees, etc.

Fluorescent lighting of the latest type has been installed throughout the building. The automatic telephone system used does not require the services of an operator for interoffice and outgoing calls and affords full service out of regular hours.

In its permanent home Science Service expects to continue and increase its service to both the public and the scientific world. The program of Dec. 13 which will be fully reported in subsequent issues of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is in a very real sense a rededication of the institution to the principles and activities that were set forth and materialized by Scripps, Ritter, Slosson, Kellogg, and others among its trustees and staff.

The photograph on the cover shows the entrance to the Science Service building.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1941

PSYCHOLOGY—SOCIOLOGY

Major Wars Not Started By Public War Fever

ACHARGE that most students of war have failed to recognize a startling fact—that “decision to wage war precedes by one to five years the outbreak of hostilities”—is leveled by Dr. Theodore Abel of Columbia University.

The prevailing idea that war fever spirals a people into a fight is not correct, Dr. Abel declares in a report on 25 major wars, including the present conflict. (*American Sociological Review*, December)

War fever and milling crowds are part of war's pattern, he states, but they enter the picture after leaders have made the decision to wage war.

Mussolini set a dogmatic dateline for the Ethiopian War of 1935-1936 two years before the war began, Dr. Abel concludes. As evidence, he cites Mar-

shall De Bono's published account of this war, and quotes a conversation reported by De Bono: “It was the autumn of 1933. The Duce had spoken to no one of the coming operation in East Africa; only he and I knew what was going to happen.”

While no authoritative sources are available yet to prove conclusively how the present European War originated, Dr. Abel pronounces “very illuminating” Hermann Rauschnigg's 1939 report of a long talk that he had with Hitler five years earlier. Rauschnigg in this report says that he asked, “Do you seriously intend to fight the West?” and that Hitler retorted, “What else do you think we are arming for?”

Decisions of power groups to start a war are sometimes check-mated by unexpected turns of international events.

“Hitler would not have launched his offensive,” Dr. Abel declares, “if the failure of the League of Nations had not led him to expect that the nations of Europe would act like sheep in a slaughterhouse.”

Science News Letter, December 13, 1941

PUBLIC HEALTH

Insulin To Be Safe Despite Patent Expiration

CONTINUED high standards for this country's insulin supply, which means the difference between life and death for thousands of diabetic sufferers, will be maintained, if steps reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Dec. 6) are carried out.

Insulin patent rights, which control the quality of insulin manufactured and sold in the United States and Canada, are now held by the Insulin Committee of the University of Toronto, where the insulin discovery was made. These patents expire on Dec. 24, 1941.

After that date, insulin can be made without license from the University, and consequently uninspected and unsafe insulin might get on the market. A flood of uninspected foreign brands, the *Journal* states, has already reached this country, to be distributed as soon as the patents expire.

To meet the danger of unsafe insulin, the Board of Trustees of the U. S. Pharmacopeia has recommended that the U. S. Government take over the functions of the Insulin Committee when the patents expire. This would insure continuation of the double check on insulin standards—once by the manufacturer, once by the Government.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1941