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Fall Is Science Time

(Continued from page 238)

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Science News Letter, October 10, 1959

Accidental Hunting Death Starts Gun-Safety Class

THE ACCIDENTAL hunting death of a New Hampshire teenager has resulted in the establishment of instruction in gun safety in ten states.

When 17-year-old Robert Brock of Dover, N. H., was killed due to an accidental firing, his father decided something had to be done about teaching boys how to handle firearms.

Charles Brock, together with Delwyn Main, also a hunter, started by training children in their spare time. Soon instruction was a regular extra-curricular activity at Dover High School.

The idea spread and, before long, the state legislature passed a bill authorizing any school district to offer a course in firearms safety, good hunting practices and game laws. Nine other states—Vermont, Arizona, California, New York, Virginia, Ohio, North Dakota, Maine and Washington-and many individual school districts have since set up programs based on the New Hampshire plan.

The value of the gun-safety programs is shown by the results in New Hampshire, Today's Health (Oct.), published by the American Medical Association, reports. There, three hunting seasons have gone by without a single death. Previously, the hunting season produced two or three shooting fatalities every year.

Gun safety programs stress these points:

- 1. Treat every gun as it it were loaded.
- 2. Keep the action open except when ready to fire.
- 3. Be sure of your backstop and of your target.
- 4. Never mix alcohol with gunpowder.
- 5. Never hunt with persons in front or in back of you. Keep in an even line side by side.
 - 6. Know your gun and ammunition. Science News Letter, October 10, 1959