GENERAL SCIENCE

Top Science Test Begins

➤ THOUSANDS of high school seniors have begun the annual examination in the Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships and Awards being conducted for the 21st year.

The science aptitude examination, given in the local schools by teachers during December, is the first hurdle toward recognition in this famous program to discover America's most promising young research scientists.

Completed entries in this year's Science Talent Search are expected to surpass all previous records. This is the prediction of Dr. Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, which conducts the Search as an activity of its youth program. More than 28,000 sets of entry materials have been distributed upon specific request by educators for their most outstanding seniors.

The science aptitude examination is designed by Dr. Harold Edgerton, New York consulting psychologist, to measure ability in scientific thinking and reasoning. The two-and-a-half-hour test will be administered by educators in public, private and parochial schools in the United States at any time before Dec. 27, but all materials must reach Science Clubs of America headquarters in Washington, D. C., by midnight, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

After taking the examination, students will finish writing and polishing reports on their science projects and will complete information forms asking about their activities and abilities. Their teachers will supply facts about their accomplishments, and their principals will certify their academic records.

Approximately 10% of the students who fulfill all the entry requirements will be given honors and recommended to colleges and universities for admission and scholarship grants. From the honors group, 40 top winners will be selected to come to Washington for the Science Talent Institute, March 1 through March 5.

During the Institute the 40 winners will be interviewed and their potential ability further evaluated by a board of judges to determine the distribution of $34,250 in science scholarships and awards provided by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation.

• Science News Letter, 80:383 December 9, 1961

THREE TIMES AS BRIGHT AS SUN—A photometer will measure the light output of General Electric's new 5,000 watt xenon arc lamp being placed by a lamp development engineer. He wears a welder's helmet.

SURGERY

Arthritic Hand Surgery

➤ MANY ARTHRITIC victims with twisted hands are unaware of new surgical procedures that can help them.

Dr. Leonard Marmor of the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical School, observes that such surgical procedures can not only restore hand function but improve appearance and alleviate pain in a number of common deformities of the hand due to arthritis.

He notes that the procedures have been available for some time but that not many patients were aware that help was available through surgery.

Through special surgical procedures on joints and tendons, such common arthritic conditions as stiff finger joints and other hand deformities can be greatly improved.

Dr. Marmor describes one victim in his early 20's who could not even hold a spoon to feed himself. After corrective surgery, the patient fed and dressed himself and performed virtually all normal functions with his hands.

Whether the hand-crippling effects of arthritis will return later is not certain. Dr. Marmor has patients on whom such surgery was performed more than two years ago and who have had no recurrence of their deformity. He said he knew of other surgeons who had patients four years postoperative who have had no recurrence of crippling.

Time will tell if the correction is permanent, but meanwhile such patients are enjoying a "new life" of independence and freedom from pain, providing they are willing to "work at it," the UCLA surgeon adds. The postoperative period requires considerable rehabilitation work to achieve good results.

• Science News Letter, 80:383 December 9, 1961

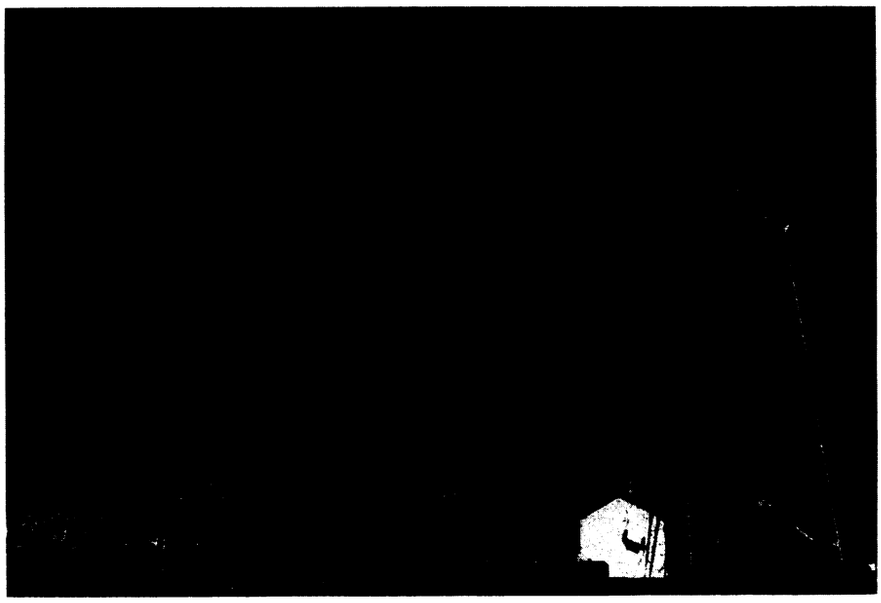
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Feather Development Indicates Chick's Growth

➤ THE TIME it will take for a brood of young chicks to mature and reach the dinner table fully dressed and ready to eat might be found from how fast their young feathers develop.

Studies by U. S. Agricultural Research Service zoologist, Dr. Peter Stettenheim, are reported in Agricultural Research, East Lansing, Mich., 10:8, 1961.

• Science News Letter, 80:383 December 9, 1961



NEW COSMIC EAR—Because it does not have to be moved about to scan the heavens, this new radio telescope, the largest of its kind in existence, differs from the usual parabolic antennas. The small antenna suspended from the boom focuses on the object. It was recently completed at Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. in Sunnyvale, Calif.