



AT TOKYO FAIR—Ronald Sakimura, 15, of Honolulu (second from right), represented the National Science Fair-International at the Fifth Japan Student Science Fair, Tokyo. He explains his research on nematode-trapping fungi to Japanese students and a Taiwan newspaperman.

GENERAL SCIENCE

News From Science Clubs

► SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA turns the spotlight on the following clubs for the scope and effectiveness of their activities:

The HIOXOIH SCIENCE CLUB has been organized for 35 years at Phillips High School, Birmingham, Ala., and is active in current science as illustrated by its programs this year on Space Science and Fallout Shelters.

The members of the SCIENCE CLUB at the Harding Township School, New Vernon, N. J., have written and produced a science play and, also, presented Life on Mars, a debate, for a school assembly program.

The CAPERING CHEMICALS of Our Lady of the Holy Cross High School presented demonstrations in two elementary schools in their home town, Merrill, Wis.

The members of the SCIENCE CLUB at St. Ursula Academy, Toledo, Ohio, have increased their club treasury by making pillows out of cattails and pine. The latter could be a Christmastime seasonal project for clubs.

The UNIOTO SCIENCE CLUB at the Union-Scioto High School, Chillicothe, Ohio, is having its most effective program this year with meetings every two weeks and alternating programs between speakers, field trips and experimental activities.

Elementary students are being taught basic science courses by the members of the SCIENCE CLUB at Titusville High School, Titusville, Fla.

The MINERAL SPRINGS SCIENCE

CLUB at the Mineral Springs High School, Winston-Salem, N. C., has a club project for improvements in its science department. Members have already purchased and installed an exhaust fan, built shelves in the stockroom and obtained a refrigerator for the department.

The NUCLEUS SCIENCE CLUB members at Fremont Jr. High School, Seaside, Calif., have an Enrichment Program at 7:30 a.m. for 45 minutes before school starts each morning. They broadcasted a half-hour skit on a local radio program last month. For a week, they had an hour broadcast daily on modern science findings, using tapes made in their science classes.

For three years, HAMILTON'S SIXTH GRADERS at the Vena Stuart School, Gallatin, Tenn., have obtained mice from the National Dairy Council for nutritional experiments as a part of their science study.

The members of the FULTON JR. HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB, Fulton, Miss., are concentrating on safety programs, student demonstrations and home projects.

The CARTHAGE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB, Carthage, Mo., organized 17 years ago, gives science assemblies for the student body and prepares science floats for all school parades.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS with other clubs by sending a report of your activities to Miss Leslie Watkins, executive secretary, Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Flu Epidemic Scare Causes Vaccine Shortage

► A NATIONWIDE FLU EPIDEMIC scare has created a severe shortage of flu vaccine.

An unusual demand for the flu vaccine has exceeded the expected demand predicted by U.S. public health officials. Pharmaceutical companies are now stepping up production to cut down the shortage.

The Public Health's Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Ga., told SCIENCE SERVICE in a telephone interview that there is no Asian flu (Type A) in the country, and that only three communities definitely have Type B influenza.

Dr. George Denniston, chief of the Center's influenza surveillance unit, said Type B influenza has been isolated so far in Miami, Fla., the greater San Francisco area in California and on Hopi and Navajo reservations in Arizona.

"At this time of year we expect a great deal of respiratory disease," Dr. Denniston said, "and we have no crystal ball to predict whether or not influenza will develop in epidemic proportions."

The Public Health Service in Washington said it had emphasized the vaccination of the three high-risk groups—those with chronic lung troubles, pregnant women and the elderly. These groups make up about 17,000,000 of the nation's population.

Pharmaceutical companies had planned to manufacture enough vaccine to take care of 18,000,000 persons, but an overwhelming response to vaccination warnings quickly depleted all available supplies.

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ASTRONOMY

Earth and Planets Formed From Dust Drawn to Sun

► THE EARTH and all the other planets of the solar system were formed from tiny dust particles accumulating around the sun as it passed through a vast dust cloud in space.

This theory on the origin of the solar system was proposed in London by Prof. R. A. Lyttleton of Cambridge University, Cambridge, England. If true, planets around other sun-like stars would be quite common.

Dr. Lyttleton suggests that the sun must have passed through several hundred if not thousands of dust clouds during its lifetime of several billion years. During one of these encounters, the sun's speed relative to the cloud must have slowed down to a little more than a mile a second in order to accumulate the necessary amount of dust for later planet formation.

Such a speed would probably occur at some time for any star during very long periods of time. According to Dr. Lyttleton's theory, the sun or other stars would be formed at one time, then later would acquire from a dust cloud the necessary material for planets.

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