

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# What Makes a Scientist?

A study of the factors that influence and motivate young students toward careers in science is being conducted by Science Service's Science Youth Division.

➤ **WHAT MAKES** a scientist? A research study is underway in Washington to uncover the factors that lead young people to decide on a career in science.

Under the direction of Dr. Harold A. Edgerton, chief of SCIENCE SERVICE's Science Youth Division, the study aims at recreating the ingredients that make up a young student's mind on becoming a scientist.

Information for the study will come from men and women who at one time were eager science-minded youngsters themselves. They are the early winners of the Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships.

At least 150 former Search winners for the years 1942 and 1943 will be interviewed to try to unravel those factors which contributed to the encouragement and development of these persons towards promising careers as creative scientists.

By collecting data on the why and how of the former winners, it is expected valuable information will be gained that will help in selecting, encouraging and training science personnel. One of the chief aims of the study is to learn at what age youngsters are motivated toward a science career and how.

The study is being supported in its first year by an \$18,500 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The annual Science Talent Search was started in 1942 with the cooperation and financial assistance of the Westinghouse Educational Foundation of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Each year, 40 top winners and 260 honorable mentions are chosen from competing high school seniors from throughout the United States. The top 40 are awarded trips to the Science Talent Institute, conducted by Science Clubs of America in Washington, D. C.

Since 1942, 640 winners and 4,160 honorable mentions have been selected.

Results of the study, Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, explained, will be made available to those organizations and persons interested in utilizing the results to improve their science personnel program.

## White Collar Jobs

➤ **WHITE COLLAR** jobs exert a strong pull for American youth, according to Dr. Ralph H. Turner, associate professor of sociology at the University of California at Los Angeles, who is making a study of the social and economic aspirations of high school seniors.

He reported that of a group of 1,262 Los Angeles area high school males who filled out his questionnaires, only 25% of them indicated an intention of going into

occupations involving manual labor. Yet 48% of this group comes from families where the breadwinner does some sort of manual labor.

Though only 12% of the group's families are from professional and semi-professional backgrounds, 53% of the sons aspire to these occupations.

The three-year research project involves a study of approximately 2,900 high school and 1,300 college students of both sexes. Dr. Turner will attempt to identify the values and attitudes of people who are striving for a higher social and economic level than that of their parents. Education is generally the vehicle used by the young people in this "upward mobility" process.

Dr. Turner is presently making a parallel study in England, the results of which will be compared with the American study.

Educators may be particularly interested in the project because it will indicate the problems of changing values and "complications in interpersonal relations" which are likely to develop during the climb up the social and economic ladder.

It will also help educators by identifying the kinds of students who are most likely to strive for a higher level, providing information on the students' relations with peer groups, and shedding light on the values of students from different class backgrounds.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

## PHARMACOLOGY

## Non-Laxative Drug for Chronic Constipation

➤ A **NEW** non-laxative drug that can end chronic constipation in many cases is reported by Drs. Manuel Correia-Branco, Manuel Kaufman, Raymond F. McAteer, Leonard P. Landry and Howard E. Lind of the Brooks Hospital, Brookline, Mass.

The drug, now being sold without a prescription under the trade name of Regutol, is technically not a laxative since it does not increase intestinal motor activity, the scientists say.

It acts by purely physical means and is actually a softener of intestinal obstructions. The drug is nontoxic even when used over long periods of time and creates no adverse side effects.

Tested in 183 cases of chronic constipation, the non-laxative was fully effective in 86% of the patients after the 12th day of treatment.

The drug is chemically known as dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate and releases most patients from continued use of conventional laxatives.

In severe cases it is combined with a laxative at first, and then when normal in-

testinal movement has been restored, the laxative is eliminated.

The drug can be taken regularly for an indefinite period of time, the doctors report.

It is particularly valuable in such conditions as abdominal surgery, cardiovascular disease and pregnancy.

The researchers made their report in *American Practitioner and Digest of Treatment* (July).

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

In *sunstroke*, body temperature rises, skin grows hot and dry, face reddens and a shooting headache develops, while heat exhaustion's symptoms are low body temperature, cold, clammy skin, pallor, dizziness and a dull headache.

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