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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES. 1888-1961, any issue. Periodical Service, Box 465-SN, Wilmington, Delaware.

Scientists as Newsmakers

(Continued from p. 197)

China Lake, Calif., for developing the Sidewinder guided missile weapon system.

Dr. McLean also was one of the ten scientists who have received half of the Presidential Awards given to date for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service. This is the highest honor the Government can bestow on a civilian employee.

Mr. Ragan and Mr. Clark also call attention to work done by civilian scientists at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., and the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

NIH achievements include development of the drug phenazocine as a replacement for morphine (Dr. Nathan B. Eddy), pioneer work in tissue culture technology applicable to many medical research fields (Dr. Wilton R. Earle), and development of the first device to use radioactive isotopes in detecting and locating brain tumors (Dr. Milton Shy and co-workers).

The famous Beltsville small white turkey, developed at the Agricultural Research Center by Stanley J. Marsden, is now the major type of small turkey sold to U. S. housewives. Through Drs. J. K. Mitchell and Paul C. Marth, ARC also gave the world 2,4-D, changed from a laboratory curiosity to a highly effective chemical weed-killer. It makes the weeds grow fast and die young.

More than 700 highly skilled scientists, engineers and technicians are part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space Task Group. Career scientists involved in Project Mercury helped make launching and recovery of manned U. S. satellites possible.

Scientists can make more money working for private concerns, and there are frequent cries from Congressional and other sources that the Government is being "robbed" of its best scientific talent.

But statistics show that many who left Federal service for greener pastures later chose to return. There are more opportunities with the Government, they decided, for fundamental research, publication and professional recognition.

No Government researcher has won the fame of a Pasteur, Curie, Einstein or Salk. But if their efforts receive little public acclaim, they do not go unrecognized by their fellow scientists. For most scientists, recognition from professional colleagues is recognition enough.

Science News Letter, 81:197 March 31, 1962

PSYCHOLOGY

Normal Drinking Possible In Recovered Alcoholics

➤ "NORMAL" DRINKING is possible for some former alcoholics.

Although total abstinence from alcohol is advised for all patients treated for such addiction, in rare cases alcoholic addicts can resume "normal" drinking.

Seven patients treated at the Maudsley Hospital, London, were found on follow-up to have been drinking socially for continuous periods of seven to 11 years without being drunk.

Only one of the seven distrusted his will power sufficiently to continue taking disulfiram (Antabuse) before going on a business trip where he might be tempted. Wine and beer are the usual choices of social drinking among these former addicts, although two said they drank occasional spirits.

Four of the men gave up their former occupations, which had exposed them to many invitations and opportunities to drink. Dr. D. L. Davies, dean of the Institute of Psychiatry at Maudsley, reported in the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 23:94, 1962, that nothing was done in treating the seven patients that might be expected to bring about far-reaching biochemical or personality changes.

They were only in the hospital from two to five months and they were not subjected to lengthy psychotherapeutic procedures.

"The changes which might have specially influenced the exceptionally favorable outcome," Dr. Davies said, "were in the occupational and social status." This was brought about by the general regimen adopted.

• Science News Letter, 81:206 March 31, 1962

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