

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Youth in Europe

► **YOUNG PEOPLE** throughout Europe are beginning to experiment in science, both in school and as a hobby.

This development in science for youth has been accelerated by a conference of representatives of youth organizations gathered at the UNESCO Youth Institute at Gauting, near Munich, Germany.

Fifteen countries were represented. Both leaders of general youth organizations like the YMCA, YWCA, and Boy and Girl Scouts, and those that conduct special science programs for youth, such as in France and Belgium, exchanged their experiences. U. S. experience was brought to the conference, particularly the usefulness of science fairs and simple experiment kits in inspiring science interest in youth.

The beginnings of a world organization of science youth movements in various parts of the world were made by the designation of Belgium as provisional headquarters for information interchange.

Various methods of obtaining the participation of youth in science were explored as demonstrated in various countries.

In France special laboratories of the Mouvement Jeunes Science are built with industrial support because the schools are generally not available for out-of-school use. In Belgium there are also special youth laboratories, and also an international sum-

mer youth camp devoted to biology and geology. In Britain, the British Association for the Advancement of Science has arranged numerous lectures to attract to science particularly those who leave school before the end of secondary school.

The delegate from Poland told of the mathematical and science contests conducted in schools there under the title of Olympiads, while Yugoslavia is giving great emphasis to technical education on a mass basis.

In European countries because many leave school at an earlier age than in the United States, there is greater concern with discovering and helping develop science talent among youth who are working.

The conference favored the holding of national seminars to discuss ways of presenting science to the non-scientist and the value of experimental kits in this connection. These would be followed by an international meeting. Work camp organizations were asked to include science in their programs. Exchange visits between science groups and camps of various countries were favored. An international science youth month was favored, along the lines of the science youth month conducted each October in the United States.

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Young Summer Scientists

► **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH** centers are turning more and more to students of exceptional ability to fill the vacation-thinned gaps in their scientific staffs during summer months.

Although most of these summer scientists are college students, an increasing percentage of the summer science work force include top level high school students.

The scope and selection techniques of these programs for the gifted vary.

One of the most long-standing and highly respected programs for summer science staffers is conducted by the National Bureau of Standards. At the Bureau, Mrs. Ruth Armsby told *SCIENCE SERVICE* their program dates back to 1948, and this year will include about 165 students, all but nine at the college level. Forty percent of the college students are working at the graduate level and many will utilize their summer experiences in the preparation of theses and dissertations.

The nine high school students working at the Bureau of Standards this summer have been carefully selected, and all have won national recognition in top level competition. Five were Science Talent Search winners, and four have achieved national recognition through the National Science Fair-International, Science Achievement Program, National Science Foundation Institutes, or combinations of these. Civil Service

registers are not used for this select group.

The Bureau's motives are not philanthropic, Mrs. Armsby said. It has found these high level students to be valuable staffers, and an important source for filling key positions after completion of education. For this reason those high school scientists whose performance is of high caliber are asked back again for summer appointments throughout their college years, and are sought for permanent positions after completion of their formal education.

One of the newest programs, but by no means a copy of the others, is that of the Army Chemical Corps. This year's pilot program includes summer jobs for three outstanding high school scientists picked by the Army Chemical Corps from the 387 finalists at the National Science Fair-International held in Seattle this May. These students will be eligible for reappointment during succeeding summers until they complete college. The Armed Forces Chemical Association presented each of the three with engraved plaques and checks of \$50 to help defray travel expenses to and from the salaried summer appointments at Army Chemical Corps installations.

Another National Science Fair-International award consists of a summer appointment at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and up to \$100 travel expenses. This award was given under the auspices

of the Intersociety Committee on Pathology Information and the National Committee for Careers in Medical Technology. Hospitals linked with these groups award many hospital laboratory summer jobs at local and regional science fairs the nation over.

The U. S. Weather Bureau told *SCIENCE SERVICE* their program of a student summer science staff has been in operation since 1956, and this year will include from 150 to 250, both of high school and college level. Selection is through regular Civil Service channels. The program begins with an orientation meeting and ends with a seminar at the conclusion of the summer, at which any of the students may present papers written on their summer work.

The high satisfaction of the many institutions now utilizing the abilities of top science students should lead to a continued increase in the number of scientific positions opened to the student where he can apply the knowledge gained in formal study, and gain experience which will help make future study more meaningful, all of which will tend to make the student an even more valuable employee during subsequent summers.

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Talented Teens to Attend London Science Meet

► **FOURTEEN** U.S. high school scientists will participate in the Fourth International Youth Science Fortnight this summer in London, England.

The ten boys and four girls, from every section of the nation, are active in many scientific endeavors. Nearly all of the group have been members of science clubs, most have made projects which were shown at local and regional science fairs, and some have won national honors in science previously. Their non-scientific interests cover the spectrum.

The International Youth Science Fortnight, under the patronage of the Duke of Edinburgh, consists of lectures by eminent scientists, brain trust panels, discussion groups, scientific tours, and social activities.

The American representation is a Future Scientists of America program, conducted by the National Science Teachers Association.

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ASTRONOMY

Biggest Radar Telescope For Astronomy Research

See Front Cover

► **AMERICA'S BIGGEST** radar telescope stands 160 feet high on a hilltop near Stanford University, Calif. Made of steel and aluminum the spider web will be used in radar astronomy research. The telescope will explore the sun, moon, planets and interplanetary gases.

The night photograph seen on this week's front cover was made with a hand-held 65,000 candlepower light "gun" and wide-angle lens by Lloyd Provan of the Stanford Electronic Laboratories.

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