

EDUCATION

Philippine Science School

► THE REPUBLIC of the Philippines can boast about having the only national science high school in the Far East.

The Philippine Science High School, which is modeled after the famed Bronx (N.Y.) High School of Science, opened its doors last fall.

The idea for its establishment came from Dr. Leopoldo V. Toralballa, then an associate professor of mathematics at New York University, whose son attended the Bronx High School of Science.

Because of his close association with the New York school, Dr. Toralballa was able to recognize its great potentiality, and the impact it might have in his home country, the Philippines.

Unlike its counterpart, which selects students only from the New York City school system, the Philippine Science High School recruits its students from elementary schools throughout the country. The top four "honor graduates" from each school, some 50,000 students between the ages of 11 and 13, are eligible to take a nationwide science aptitude test. The top 150 science students in the country are thus selected for the entering class.

The school offers a five-year course de-

signed "to produce creative scholars in the sciences," Dr. Toralballa said.

"This aim will condition its mode of presentation of the various fields of science."

For instance, in an experimental physics course the students will be expected to design their own experiments, rather than follow detailed directions from a laboratory manual.

Dr. Toralballa believes that the curriculum for the Philippine Science High School is more advanced than the curriculum at the Bronx High School of Science, because the Philippine school is more highly selective—choosing 150 students from 50,000 applicants.

The school provides free tuition and loan of books for all students and a complete living allowance for those in financial need.

Presently, school is being held in temporary quarters for the first or "remedial" year class. However, by this summer, Prof. Toralballa hopes that construction of the proposed new buildings will begin.

Dr. Toralballa who is on leave of absence as director of the Philippine Science High School, has returned to New York University for the current academic year.

• Science News Letter, 87:132 February 27, 1965

GENERAL SCIENCE

Academy Reelects Seitz

► DR. FREDERICK SEITZ, president of the National Academy of Sciences since 1962, has been reelected for a six-year term beginning July 1, Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, the academy's home secretary, announced.

Dr. Seitz's reelection took place under bylaws adopted by the Academy at a meeting last October that provide henceforth for a full-time, salaried president. Although previous presidents have devoted large portions of their time to Academy affairs, they have customarily maintained a primary affiliation elsewhere.

Dr. Seitz, who had been named as vice president for research and dean of the graduate college at the University of Illinois, has resigned those positions, effective July 1.

The new bylaws are based on recommendations of a 10-member committee on elective offices under the chairmanship of Dr. W. V. Houston, honorary chancellor and professor of physics at Rice University.

The committee was in unanimous agreement that the "activities of the Academy both should and will continue to increase . . ." and that for the Academy to "maintain its position as a reliable and independent adviser to all branches of the Federal Government, to state governments, and to non-governmental agencies . . . requires the full-time service of a vigorous president with an adequate staff. The president should be resident in Washington during his term of office and should have no other major obligations."

Observers interpret this change in pro-

cedure to mean that the Academy intends to play a more active part in the internal affairs of the scientific community and in relations between science and government.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Photos of Descendants Used to Erect Statue

► A BRONZE STATUE of a pioneer-explorer, whose likeness had to be reconstructed from photographs of descendants, has been dedicated in Washington, D.C. He never sat for his portrait and left little indication of his physical features when he died, more than 250 years ago.

Eusebio Francisco Kino, an Italian explorer-priest who traversed America's southwest deserts and made the first real maps of Arizona and Lower California in the late 17th century, was chosen by Arizona as one of its two leading deceased citizens to be honored in the National Hall of Statuary adjoining the Rotunda of the nation's Capitol.

Researchers, faced with the problem of producing a likeness of a man without a portrait, found that photographs of the men of his close-knit, present-day family, which has lived in one northern Italy area for over 300 years, all bore striking resemblances. From these and historical documents, the researchers deduced the facial structure, height, build and clothing of the early pioneer.

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Questions

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MEDICINE—What percentage of people more than 40 years of age suffer from glaucoma? p. 134.

MILITARY SCIENCE—What are the three steps involved in the explosion of a thermonuclear bomb? p. 133.

OCEANOGRAPHY—What method has been devised to keep track of icebergs for warning ships? p. 135.

PUBLIC HEALTH—What is the cause of abnormally high radioactive levels in some Eskimos? p. 142.

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