

Aside from the technical value of my instrument, it is valuable to me in that I gained much practical knowledge in optics and workmanship in its construction. Also it was my ticket to the National Fair in Cleveland where I met many new friends and scientists.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FAIRS TO THE STUDENT

ANNA WEIGEL, INSTRUCTOR
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One of the most challenging and encouraging experiences which can come to a high school boy or girl is the opportunity to present a scientific project in competition with other students from over the nation. This fact was indeed demonstrated at the National Science Fair which was held in Cleveland, Ohio, May 12-14 of this year. At that time one hundred and thirty students, each a winner in one of the seventy-one regional science fairs from coast to coast, displayed their own scientific exhibits in competition for national honors. This type of competition is good for the student.

From the enthusiasm, earnestness and assurance with which the students discussed and explained the principles involved in their exhibits to the many outstanding scientists, eminent industrialists, and other visitors, it was evident that each one had not only an understanding of his project but also much pride and joy in a piece of work well done.

From the speakers, scientists and from each other, the students received encouragement to continue their studies in science, a stimulus for research and creative work in science, a realization of the need for skilled personnel in the various fields, and above all, a desire to fill those needs.

It would be amiss not to mention the genuine enthusiasm, good fellowship and true sportsmanship which prevailed throughout the entire three days. New friendships were made, participants rejoiced with and congratulated the national winners, and in parting shouted to each other, "I'll meet you at the Fair in Oklahoma City next year."

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCIENCE FAIR FROM A TEACHER'S POINT OF VIEW

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The growing demand for trained scientists is brought to the attention of the high school science teacher almost daily by one or another of the many media of communication. When in-

dustrialists not only help finance fairs, but interrupt their busy schedules to fly across the nation to talk with boys and girls about science, to discuss their individual projects, prepare inspiring lectures, and banquet them, one is deeply convinced that eminent industrialists are well aware of the necessity for the early training of our youth who have scientific ability and interest.

The importance of these fairs is emphasized by the increasing number of participating newspapers, universities, professional, technical, and civic societies. This year the number of awards was greatly increased by the donations of scientific equipment from manufacturers. The Young Presidents Club, an organization of young men who became presidents of a million dollar company before they reached the age of forty, gave eight additional awards of one hundred and twenty-five dollars in stock of the Atomic Mutual Development Fund and sent their president all the way from Texas to Ohio to make the presentations.

From the teacher's point of view, the science fair arouses her ambitions for her students in many and various ways. She develops a greater desire to help her pupils successfully meet the challenge in the growing field of scientific opportunity. She is encouraged to try even harder to keep pace with the new concepts, to overcome the lack of equipment, limited time and crowded conditions. She finds herself more alert to new ideas and different methods of approach to the problems that may challenge some student and stimulate him to search for the solutions to his own satisfaction and thereby develop the latent talent so much in demand in this scientific and atomic age.

NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

Newsorthy items suitable for this column should be addressed to the News Editor, Dr. Carl Tabb Bahner, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee.

Dr. A. W. Jones of the University of Tennessee Department of Zoology and Entomology was a member of the staff of the Mountain Lake Biological Station, Mountain Lake, Virginia, during the summer, 1955.

Dr. Honorico Ciordia who has been studying the relationship of parasitism to irradiation at the University of Tennessee Department of Zoology on an Atomic Energy Commission grant has left to take a position as parasitologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Disease and Parasite Research Branch, Experiment, Georgia.

Dr. Ira Sarkar is spending the year 1955-56 working with Dr. J. Gordon Carlson at the University of Tennessee Department of Zoology on a Smith-Mundt Fulbright grant. She has recently been engaged in research in Cytology with Dr. S. P. Raychaudhuri at the University of Calcutta.

Dr. W. K. Baker, Senior Biologist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, has resigned to accept a position as Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of Chicago.