News of Science

Meteorology and Atomic Energy

The executive committee of the World Meteorological Organization has announced the establishment of a 4-member panel of specialists to study the meteorological aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, with particular emphasis on the movement of radioactive waste products in the atmosphere. The following scientists were named to the panel: A. A. Danilin, U.S.S.R.; B. Guilmet, France; P. J. Meade, United Kingdom; and A. I. Wexler, United States.

The panel's terms of reference mention the need to insure that techniques arising from this field of activity be used to assist the science of meteorology in every possible way. Among such techniques is the use of radioactive tracers in the study of large-scale movements of air masses or ocean currents.

The executive committee has also announced its decision that there is no reason to conclude that the nuclear explosions which have taken place have had any large-scale effect on the weather. The committee therefore agreed to discontinue its inquiry into this question but to keep the matter under review in the light of any information that might be forthcoming in the future.

Junior Academies of Science

With a serious scientific manpower shortage facing our country it is obvious that the young scientist must play a very important part in the world of tomorrow. The junior academy of science movement is one of the active interests of the AAAS Science Teaching Improvement Program in its work of discovering and developing scientific talent in American youth.

Twenty-five states and three cities report having a junior academy of science. The academies may have science-club memberships, individual memberships, or be organized along either of these patterns. Although the junior academies are primarily an activity at the high-school level, 18 of them include junior-high students and one has only junior-college students.

The junior academies are often financially supported by means of dues, registration fees, sponsoring senior academies, bequests, memorials, grants, or other sources. The academies are usually directed by an advisory committee that is under the control of the senior academy. Students occupy the major offices in 18 of the organizations.

All but two of the academies have at least one meeting a year with the senior academy. The contact with the senior scientists of the state is usually the most inspiring part of the program, and the senior scientists are always impressed by the talent observed among the juniors.

The presentations of student research are the most important part of the junior academy meetings. The research may be presented as an exhibit, a demonstration, or a paper. The projects are not always technically accurate and students do not have the scientists' knowledge that would lead them to limit their fields of endeavor. Consequently, some highly technical scientists have expressed their doubt as to the value of projects, but one needs only to talk to junior members at their meetings to recognize the value of such projects in the stimulation of scientific thinking at the high-school level.

Lectures are frequently given at the junior academy meetings by distinguished state or national scientists who are leaders in their fields. Most of the junior academy programs include trips to museums, industrial plants, and other places of scientific interest.

The stimuli of attending meetings, sharing ideas on projects, and meeting senior scientists make attendance at junior academy meetings a coveted trip for students, but in many states further awards are given to participants. These awards may be cash, certificates, scholarships, loving cups, ribbons, plaques, or subscriptions to science magazines. Two honorary annual memberships in the AAAS are available to each academy. In four states outstanding teacher-sponsors are also rewarded by citations, pens, keys, or summer scholarships that may be used for graduate work.

Several of the junior academies publish announcements, information, scientific articles, book reviews, or similar features. The junior academies that have such publications usually maintain a higher level of interest than the others. A few junior academies maintain speaker and counselor committees by means of which college and industrial personnel are made available as speakers and advisers for science clubs, classes, or other meetings.

In some states weekly radio and television programs are prepared. In others Kodachrome slides of projects are available for loan. Coprojects of many kinds with senior scientists have proved attractive to many students.

Junior academies often cooperate with state science education sections to aid in bringing new fields of science to the attention of high-school teachers. A recent education survey points to the secondary-school science teachers as those most responsible for the early identification and channeling of potential scientists. The junior academies of science are designed to assist the secondary-school teacher in appealing to superior students and guiding them along the pathway of science. There is a definite place for these junior science activities in helping to alleviate the manpower shortage.

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Socio-Psychological Prize Judges

Judges for the 1956 AAAS Socio-Psychological prize essay contest are Fred L. Strodtbeck, University of Chicago Law School; Raymond V. Bowers, chief of the social science plans division, Air Force Personnel and Training Research Center, Lackland Air Force Base; and Kimball Young, department of sociology, Northwestern University. Announcement of the contest and the conditions of competition appeared in the 30 Mar. issue of *Science*. The deadline for receipt of entries is *1 Sept.*

Civil Service Science Salaries

Philip Young, chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, made several comments about salaries for scientists and engineers during a recent address before the Society of Personnel Administration. Young said he was convinced "some adjustments in pay" were warranted for scientific positions. He also indicated that the Administration might ask Congress to give it the authority to pay expenses for pre-employment interviews of applicants for hard-to-fill jobs, as well as travel and moving expenses of new appointees to their first posts of duty.

He observed that the salaries paid scientists and engineers working on govern-