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EST. 1853
Rehabilitation and the College Curriculum in Biology:
Professor Walter F. Loehwing 457

Post-War Military Research: Rear Admiral J. A. Furey, U.S.N. 461

Obituary:
Charles B. Lipman: Professor Howard S. Reed 464

Scientific Events:
The Industrial Development of India; The Institute of Geophysical Technology at St. Louis University; The Department of Geology and Paleontology of the American Museum of Natural History 465

Scientific Notes and News 467

Discussion:
Biochroomes: Professor Denis L. Fox. The Opportunity of Pure Science: Dr. John M. Pearson. Education in Argentina: Panamerican 470

Scientific Books:
The Chemistry of Cellulose: Professor Stephen P. Burke. Solid Adsorbents: Professor Marston Taylor Bogert 472

Special Articles:
Prevention and Treatment of d-Tubocurarine Poisoning: Professor Theodore Koppanyi and A. Earl Vivino. The Level of Performance in the White Rat: Kathryn E. Albert and Professor Carl J. Wardén. Toxicity of Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT) to Goldfish and Frogs: Professor M. M. Ellis, B. A. Westfall and M. D. Ellis 474

Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:
Inhibition of E. coli by Penicillin: Dr. Gregory Schwartzman 477

Science News 10

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REHABILITATION AND THE COLLEGE CURRICULUM IN BIOLOGY¹

By Professor WALTER F. LOEHWING
STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Proposed and existing federal legislation concerned with education provides a fairly good index to the general concepts and major plans for American postwar instruction. In addition to the existing laws for the rehabilitation and training of veterans (Public Laws 16, 1943 and 346, 1944), there are pending, and apparently certain of early enactment into law, three other important federal bills on education. These include the General Aid Bill (S-637), the Vocational Education Bill (S-1946) and the College and University General Extension Act (S-1670). The General Aid Bill aims to equalize educational opportunities in public schools through federal subsidy to inadequately financed institutions. The Vocational Education Bill contemplates an initial appropriation of $97,500,000 for vocational training, essentially on a post-high-school level, of veterans, displaced war workers and adults. The General Extension Act will grant funds to state universities and land-grant colleges for extension and adult education supplemental to agricultural extension work. The foregoing bills are the outgrowth of various nation-wide studies to meet the probable postwar educational needs of major groups of our population. Federal legislation of the above type is already being supplemented by similar laws in individual states.

These proposals clearly indicate that our schools, especially colleges and universities, face the task of serving a very large and extremely heterogeneous body of students. The traditional pattern of college curriculum hitherto designed to serve primarily the needs of relatively immature high-school graduates will have to be modified for battle-hardened veterans and mature

¹ Address before the Botanical Society of America, at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Cleveland, Ohio, September 11, 1944.