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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS
Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Annual Subscription, $6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

THE NATIONAL ROSTER OF SCIENTIFIC AND SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL

By LEONARD CARMICHAEL
President of Tufts College

The National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel is a project of the United States Government, planned to make available in one central office an index of all American citizens who have special scientific or professional skills which may be of importance to the nation in periods of emergency and in normal times.

A somewhat similar register has been completed in England under the sponsorship of the Royal Society. There is no doubt that similar catalogues are available in the totalitarian nations.

The American Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel is being developed as a means of recording in an accurate way one of the important areas of the human resources of the nation. It is peculiarly appropriate, therefore, that the national roster is being developed by the federal government as a joint project of the National Resources Planning Board and the Civil Service Commission. The latter agency is especially concerned in the matter because its executives have seen clearly that the modern advance of scientific and technical specializations has rendered it necessary that the nation should be able to call upon its specialized personnel in an intelligent and efficient manner.

Thus, the fundamental idea behind the new roster is conservation. It is recognized by all that the services of experts may be crucial in preserving the welfare of the nation. A chemist whose work has been done in some specialized and relatively obscure field