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It is quite certain that early discovery of ability helps crystallize the interests of the students and stimulates them to further activity.

For these reasons, Science Service, Science Clubs of America and Westinghouse are cooperating in an annual Science Talent Search. Methods employed in the Science Talent Search, including the science aptitude tests, were devised by Dr. Harold A. Edgerton, Ohio State University, and Dr. Steuart Henderson Britt, Office of Psychological Personnel, National Research Council.

Each year, 40 boys and girls selected on the basis of the criteria set up by Dr. Edgerton and Dr. Britt, are taken to Washington as guests of Westinghouse. There, after further examinations and interviews, those who qualify receive Westinghouse Science Scholarships ranging from $100 to $2400.

Last year, 20 Westinghouse Science Scholarships were awarded, but every boy and girl selected for the trip received offers of scholarship help from leading colleges and universities.

Every one entered college.

Every one is making a scholastic record considerably above the average.

Since the Science Talent Search is only in its second year, there are yet no data on the correlation between aptitude as measured by the methods employed and actual achievement in science. Dr. Edgerton and Dr. Britt have, however, begun a projected ten-year study of these boys and girls, covering their work in college and the early part of their after-college careers.

Full information on the Science Talent Search, including reprint of an article by Dr. Edgerton and Dr. Britt describing the methods employed, will be sent on request. Write to Science Service, 1719 N Street, Washington, D.C., or to School Service, Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., 306 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
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The Goblin that works for America

The inquisitive alchemists of the Middle Ages were looking for silver. Repeatedly, they smelted certain ores and got a silvery-looking metal. But it was only silvery-looking. It never turned out to be silver. So the alchemists thought that a malicious spirit was thwarting them, and they called the strange metal Kobold, meaning goblin.

Today that same goblin, known in America as cobalt, has become one of this country’s great fighting elements. Cobalt is alloyed with chromium and tungsten to make “Haynes Stellite” alloys which have the property of “red hardness.” Metal-cutting tools made of these alloys keep on cutting even when red hot! Cobalt improves red hardness and toughness in other kinds of metal-cutting tools. Thus, cobalt has contributed greatly to the tremendous output of planes, tanks, guns, and other war materials.

Cobalt is also used to produce improved magnet steels. Permanent magnets of cobalt-tungsten steel are more powerful, and last longer. Permanent magnets are necessary in much electrical equipment.

This country’s cobalt formerly came from Belgium, where it was refined from African ores found in the Belgian Congo.

As war clouds loomed, and as accelerated American industry made rapid inroads on the stockpiles shipped out of Belgium during 1938 and 1939, ELECTRO METALLURGICAL COMPANY, a unit of UCC, designed and built facilities in this country for the Belgians. ELECTROMET now operates these facilities so that HAYNES STELITE COMPANY, another Unit of UCC, and other American companies can have the cobalt they need for essential war work. Operations began in 1941. Today, these facilities annually produce more cobalt than was ever imported in any year previously.

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FORTY YEARS OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY
SOME GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

By Professor EDWIN C. MILLER
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

FORTY years ago the work in plant physiology was changing from the old to the new. Those who were interested in the subject were concerned chiefly with the nature of the response of Mimosa or similar plants to stimuli of various sorts. In the main, they were not interested at all in any practical or applicable results that might accrue from their investigations. At about the time of my entrance into the field, the conflict between the purist and the practical man was at its height and was being waged bitterly. It is said that some purist when asked of what practical value his findings were in the field of science, replied, "None whatsoever and if I had thought before undertaking the work that they would be of any practical value, I would never have undertaken the investigation.” Such a happening may be somewhat exaggerated, but it, nevertheless, illustrates the state of mind of some of the individuals who waged this bitter conflict. This condition illustrates the same spirit that was expressed by the so-called “malefactors of great wealth” who are reputed to have said that “the public could be damned” as far as they were concerned.

The public, rightly or wrongly, may eventually reach the stage where the workers not only in plant physiology, but also in most other lines of scientific work, must show that the results of their labors will contribute to the happiness or advancement of man-