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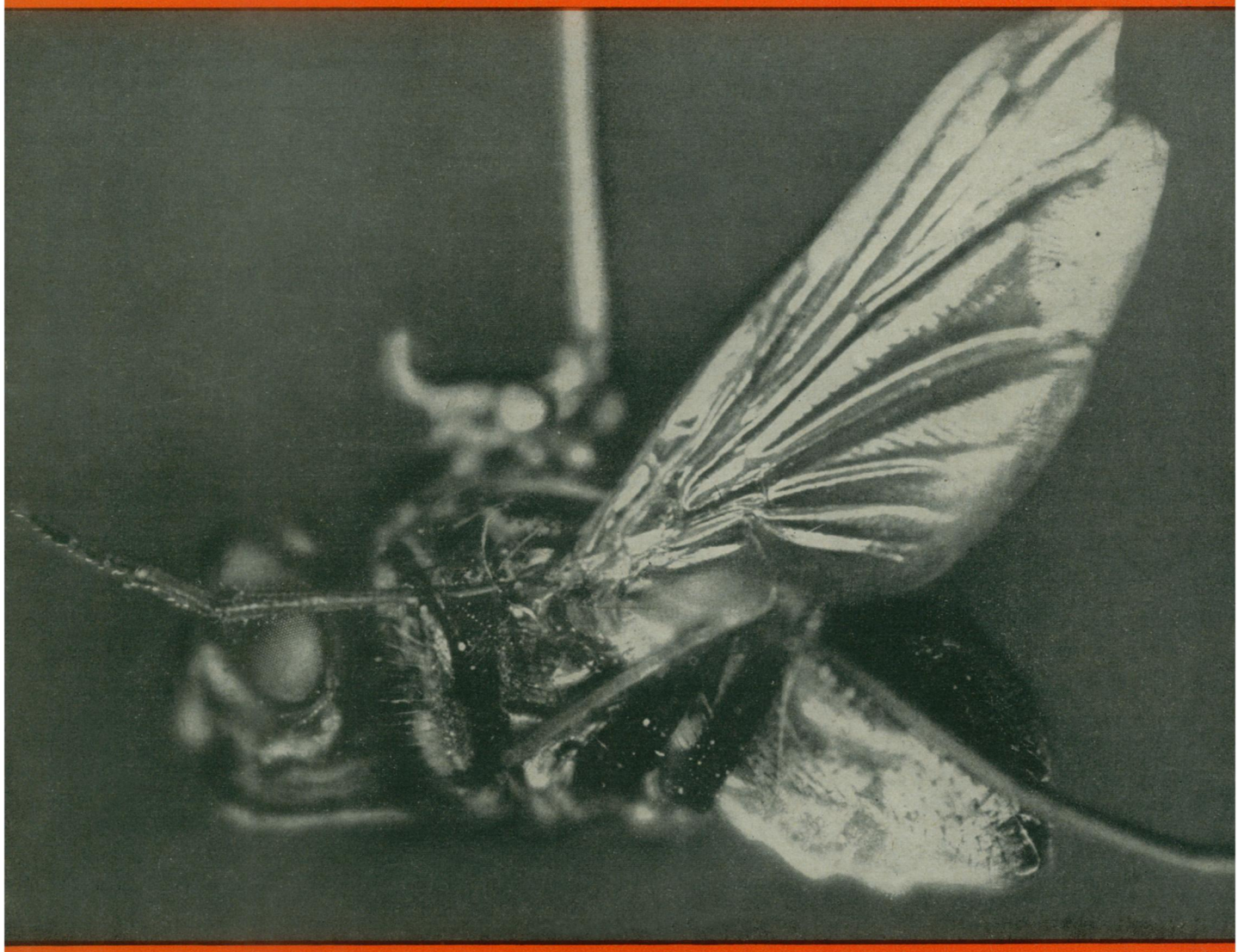
SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

®

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE



Flight of Fly

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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

What General Electric people are saying . . .

J. W. BELANGER

Mr. Belanger is Vice President, Defense Products Group

. . . The significance of the nuclear-powered submarine is that it brings to reality the world's first working atomic power plant—a forerunner of useful atomic power for merchant ships, airplanes, and the generation of electrical power for industry, farms, homes, and many applications for peaceful living.

By the year 2000, nuclear fuels will be the major sources of energy, regardless of whether fossil fuels are seriously depleted.

Fission (splitting atoms with release of energy) and fusion (combining atoms with release of energy) will both be major sources of nuclear power—fission for controlled power sources, and fusion for explosive-type sources.

By the end of the present century, most of the new large utility plants generating electrical energy for homes and industry will operate with atomic (fission) fuel.

The direct generation of electricity from fission is an open question. Who would dare to deny that even it might be commonplace in 50 years?

Solar fuels must also be taken into consideration in any projection that far ahead.

What will this mean to our way of living? Atomic plants will be safe enough to be located within city limits. Residents of Los Angeles and other low-rainfall coastal areas will probably sprinkle their lawns and wash their clothes in fresh water, distilled from ocean water by heat from atomic fuels.

The rapid development of nuclear energy will have advanced the study of many new materials particularly suited for nuclear energy use, but having many other applications. Neutron spectrometry, radioactive logging of borings, widespread use of tracers in industrial processes, employment of radioactive materials in medicine, biology, agriculture and other diagnostic work—these are but a few of the many avenues which may mean little to the average reader at this time, but which on the other hand do mean a great deal to men of science.

Monogram Magazine

D. L. MILLHAM

Mr. Millham is Vice President and General Manager, Lamp Division

. . . There has been a newly awakened realization among electric utilities and electrical equipment suppliers of the broad undeveloped market in the lighting field—particularly home lighting.

Electrical consumption for residential lighting has tripled in the past 10 years but even so only a very small percentage of homes are lighted properly. We found in a recent survey that at the present rate of improvement, it would take residential lighting 100 years to reach the standards already prevailing in many stores and offices.

More and more people are becoming aware of the advantages of good lighting for schools, offices, streets, industry, autos and even airplanes. They enthusiastically appreciate its contributions to beauty, to comfort and safety, and to eye protection of the whole family.

It is up to us to continue to explore new frontiers of lighting knowledge, and to manufacture better products which translate this knowledge into better living for more people.

at Nela Park, Cleveland

General Electric has recently published a booklet entitled WHY STUDY MATH. Written for high school students, it points out the value of mathematics in everyday life, and the necessity of mathematical training for anyone interested in a career in the expanding fields of science and engineering. If you would like a copy, or would like us to send a copy to someone for you, write General Electric Co., Room 2-111, Schenectady, N. Y.

W. R. G. BAKER

Dr. Baker is Vice President and General Manager, Electronics Division

If I were to have anything to say about programming of an educational television station, I would insist that fully half the effort be expended in finding ways and means of inspiring not only the youths but also the adults to extend, continue or renew their education. Don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying that education itself cannot be inspirational. One of the benefits of educational television is that it enables the outstanding educator, or teacher or instructor to inspire thousands and not just a score, or a few hundred at most.

Many obstacles remain in the path of educational television before it will be proven successful. Besides indifference and active opposition, there will be considerable disagreement as to what should be presented to the public and how it should be presented. But these problems are not insurmountable.

I believe that educational television will succeed in the United States because there is unceasing pressure for greater educational opportunities. There is an awareness and a recognition by almost all persons that through education the ills of mind and spirit, yes, and even of ideologies, can be cured or prevented. So much has been accomplished in a few short years. The strides we have made in science and medicine have been giant strides, but we hear no one echoing the sentiments of the man who decades ago urged that the patent office be abolished, because all possible inventions had been made. We have today an even greater awareness of how much we still have to learn and how great the benefits will be to all people.

at The Chicago Educational Television Association

You can put your confidence in—

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