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If no price is given, enclose a business size, self-addressed, 5¢ stamped envelope.

• Science News Letter, 88:234 October 9, 1965

Nature Note

Sea Flower

Looking like a beautiful underwater dahlia or chrysanthemum, the sea anemone has many delicate, colored tentacles that radiate from the top of a short muscular stalk.

At the slightest disturbance or irritation, however, these strange animals contract their tentacles and fold them inward into the center of the stalk.

There are about a thousand species of sea anemones, which are members of the Coelenterata phylum, one of the lower groups of animals. The anemones live attached by a broad sucker-like foot to firm objects such as rocks, shells or wharves. They can creep slowly around the ocean bottom on this foot, and some can swim through the water by lashing their tentacles.

When undisturbed and covered with water, the anemone spreads out all its delicate tentacles and displays remarkable combinations of colors—salmon pink, orange, brown, green and vivid red. Anemones also are striped or have breath-taking geometric patterns of reds, blues, grays, greens and purples. Actually these beautiful tentacles are busy wafting minute animals into the anemone's mouth, or cramming it with small sea worms, crabs and shells. In turn, the anemone is eaten by larger fish, crabs or starfish.

One curious partnership exists between the anemone and the hermit crab. A crab sometimes takes a young anemone and holds it quietly until it attaches to the shell just below the mouth parts of the crab. The anemone receives scraps of food from the rather sloppy feeding of the crab, and the crab is protected from enemies by the stinging tentacles of the anemone, and also takes its share of the anemone's food.

• Science News Letter, 88:235 October 9, 1965

TECHNOLOGY

Gemini-Type Fuel Cells For British Railroads

► FUEL CELLS, similar to those used for providing power in the Gemini spacecraft, may be developed by British Railways to power their locomotives.

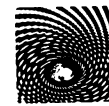
The feasibility of this source of power, which might considerably reduce fuel costs, is being investigated by the Chemical Research Division of the British Railways' Research Department in North London.

The purpose of the investigation is to find out if the diesel engine/generator in diesel locomotives could be replaced by a fuel cell.

• Science News Letter, 88:235 October 9, 1965

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