

of this nature," says Wharton. The question of Russian—and Japanese—fishing fleets operating in what could be regarded as traditional Australian waters, is likely to be discussed in the near future at the Federal-state fisheries conference in Perth. The conference is likely to consider the need for a full research program being carried out by Australian scientists, including the processing and packaging of fish.

*William A. Scholes*

## Nuclear Test Detection

A station to monitor nuclear tests will be operating in Western Australia soon. It will be one of several around the world to enforce the three-nation nuclear test ban treaty and monitor tests by other countries.

The 1963 treaty, signed by Britain, the United States and Russia, bans nuclear tests in the atmosphere, but not those underground.

The station, set up at the RAAF base at Pearce, will be staffed by Australian and British scientists. Information from the special equipment will be given to the two governments.

The station will detect and monitor atmospheric H-bomb blasts, including those triggered in the Pacific by France and those set off by China. The nuclear test detection center is on a site formerly used by the United States for experiments in the upper atmosphere. Equipment has been brought from Britain. The new station is expected to cooperate with a Swedish plan for a world nuclear detection club aimed at reinforcing a total nuclear test ban—should one ever be produced.

FROM ENGLAND

## Glass Message Scrambler

A way of scrambling and unscrambling secret documents, using only a piece of glass, has been developed by British scientists.

But the glass (which need be no bigger than a hand-held magnifying glass) is not as simple as it looks. Instead of being made in a single piece it is actually, composed of many thousands of separate glass fibers.

And, instead of running parallel, these fibers are twisted about like strands of hair in a schoolgirl's plait. Because the fibers are transparent the twists cannot be seen.

When the glass is held over printed words it instantly minces them up so that all that can be seen is a page of

meaningless squiggles. Each fiber picks up a separate and infinitely small fragment of the document and transmits it to the viewer in a displaced position.

Scientists of Rank Taylor Hobson Ltd. say the way to use the glass scrambler is to photograph a secret document through it. The photographed document can then be read only by someone in possession of the appropriate reading glass. It would be impossible to decode the document without the right glass, and nobody could copy the glass without knowing the exact arrangement of the fibers.

*F. C. Livingstone*

## Doctors Contend

A plan by the Ministry of Health to send a team of five medical experts to North America to persuade British doctors who emigrated there to return, is being severely criticized by the medical profession in Britain.

The team, which will leave London next month, consists of two doctors from the Ministry, and three senior hospital doctors from Birmingham.

Criticizing the timing of the visit and the composition of the team, Dr. Derek Stevenson, secretary of the British Medical Association, says, "If any doctors return to Britain as a result of this trip, the majority will be family doctors or relatively junior doctors in hospitals."

"Yet this Ministry team has no junior doctor who could talk to those in America on the same level, nor any practicing family doctor."

"In any case, the Ministry should make conditions for doctors here better before they try getting them to return from Canada and the United States."

The position of the family doctor is summed up by a doctor in southeast England: "Since last year the pay of family doctors has improved but the patients are just as demanding and the form filling is much worse. A doctor who comes back from the States should have his head examined."

## Doctors Give Up Smoking

Doctors in Britain are increasingly giving up smoking, says A. J. Camm of Guy's Hospital, London. Fifty percent of doctors are nonsmokers, against 24 percent of other men. Among lung cancer research workers, cigarette smoking was practically zero.

FROM GENEVA

## Monkeys vs. Malaria



Fremont Davis

Tools of science.

Owl monkeys are needed for research with malaria drug tests, and expeditions are planned by international malariologists to Central and South America to catch and learn how to raise them.

At a World Health Organization conference on the chemotherapy of malaria in Geneva, Dr. L. H. Schmidt of the University of California, Davis, praised the owl monkey as a model.

"We may well be on our way to more precise and directly applicable assessments of the activities of new anti-malarials than has ever been possible before," he said. He pointed out that scientists have demonstrated that these monkeys are susceptible to infections with both falciparum and vivax malaria. They do not have natural malaria as other animals do, and they are small, tough and hardy enough for cage life.

Procurement and husbandry are the major obstacles to any attempted broad use of test systems with this monkey and the two malaria forms.

Dr. Schmidt was chosen to test a new drug developed in Germany, called RC 12, with which he has had encouraging laboratory tests. The Germans had worked with canaries in testing the drug, but primate tests are more satisfactory. After further animal tests, Americans will try the drug on volunteer prisoners, which is forbidden in Germany. *David Alan Ehrlich*