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LETTERS

To the Editor

From a Student

Sir

I would like to express my admiration for the fine variety, reporting and brevity of the articles in SCIENCE News. Since I am an honor student and am carrying a 20-credit hour program, I do not have much spare reading time, and your magazine is a godsend to the collegian trying to keep abreast of the latest scientific events. The Life Sciences department is a welcome addition, since my major is biology.

Monica Barron, Detroit, Mich.

Nauseated

Sir

Congratulations to you and to him or her (Faye Marley) who wrote the article "Inroads in the Meat Jungles" (SN: 8/5).

I got nauseated and sick to my stomach reading it.

It is unbelievable that in this day and age such abominable conditions could still exist in some intrastate abattoirs.

It takes a lot of courage to expose such low standards in Public Health inspection and regulation where perhaps vested interests and dirty politics are in cahoots (see p. 239).

If it is possible I would like to get another copy of the Aug. 5th issue, as I gave my copy to a doctor friend.

Joseph W. Miller M.D.

Miami, Fla.

(A copy has been sent. Ed.)

Earth's Water Balance

Sir:

I am sure that you do not know that you embarrassed me, a teacher of general science. Here's what you did:

In an article (SN: 10/1/66) you state:

"One of the great wonders of this planet is . . . the total water supply has neither diminished nor increased . . ."

I keep telling my students that new water is being made daily through the combustion of hydrocarbon fuels. In fact, the Ethyl Corporation says that, for every gallon of gasoline that is burned, a gallon of water (liquid) is formed. My own estimate is that over 110 billion gallons of new water is made every year by this means.

I am ready to admit that this 110 (See p. 224)

220

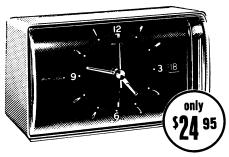
SOME PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE CUCKOO TO PAY \$25 FOR "JUST" A CLOCK

They're the same people who don't mind living with "the approximate" time or walking into a Five-and-Dime every six months to buy another new \$8.95 wind-up tick-tock.

Also, this clock is not "just" a clock. It is a most elegant tabletop timepiece from West Germany with the following attributes:

There is the calendar. When you wake, you'll know what day it is! (This sometimes comes in handy!) Around back you will see no handle for winding . . . no cord for plugging-in. An ordinary flashlight battery powers the mechanisms—for a good year or more. When it begins to lose its juice, red appears under the number "12" Now, about the alarm. It's not the alarming kind. Just effective. Reveille begins with four short but insistent signals. If you don't shut off the alarm, there will follow a continuous bzzzzzzzz that would stir Rip Van Winkle.

Furthermore, this timepiece is in excellent taste. Quite handsome. Designed to "go" anywhere. You will think so, too. The works of this TwelveMonth Clock are so precise and perfect that you can adjust it to within two seconds of being on-the-dot every 24 hours. It's a rare wristwatch that can time itself to such a fine degree. The usual Haverhill's 10-day money-back Guarantee applies (if you are not impressed in every way). Beyond that, there is the Manufacturer's Warranty covering parts and workmanship. This extends over a full year. So if you can afford to indulge your appreciation of fine



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(Continued from p. 220)

billion gallons is but a drop compared with the 326 million cubic miles total of the earth's water; yet I am sure that this new water should be mentioned.

This new water should be considered right along with the increase in the atmosphere's own burden of carbon dioxide as a factor in our continuing research into our weather.

B. A. Noel, Oakdale Boys' Home, Pittsburgh, Pa.

(In this apparent contradiction, everyone is right. It is quite true that the total water supply of the earth is neither diminishing nor increasing. And also you are quite right in telling your students that water is being produced daily through combustion of hydrocarbon fuels. The key is in the concept of the "total water supply"—the fact that masses of water exist in the hydrologic cycle, whether in free circulation, or "locked up" in various processes. The water resulting from combustion is really not "new"—it is merely being unlocked from hydrocarbon molecules and put again into the water cycle. The process is only a miniscule part of the entire hydrologic cycle. Water is also being unlocked in other processes, such as volcanic eruptions which release tons of water vapor into the atmosphere. At the same time, water is being withdrawn from the world circulation in processes such as the weathering of hydrated rocks which "lock up" water molecules, thus removing water from the water cycle. Yet the total supply remains the same—Ed.)

Films of The Week

Listing for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

PLANETARY CIRCULATION. 16mm, b&w. sound, 25 min. Model analogues of simplified circulations are used to demonstrate that the basic features of the planetary circulation result from the interaction of three factors: unequal solar heating of the earth's surface, the force of gravity transforming this temperature differential to a vast convection cell, and the deflecting "force" associated with the earth's rotation. Audience: high school science. Purchase \$130 from Modern Learning Aids, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036 or regional offices.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH. 16mm, b&w. sound, 25 min. Documents air pollution problems in Philadelphia with emphasis on health effects. Dramatizes threat of air pollution on a young boy's lungs, and portrays the crippling illness of a 62-year old victim of emphysema. Discusses need for voluntary action by industry and the public. Audience: general. Free loan from Public Health Service, Audiovisual Facility, Atlanta, Ga. 30333.

THE VERTEBRATES. Series of six films. 8mm (standard or Super-8, color, silent (with captions), 4 min each. Includes vertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Audience: grades 4-6. Purchase series \$107.50 or each \$20 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.