

# News Briefs

## OBITUARY

### Sir John Cockcroft

One of the last public acts of Sir John Cockcroft's rich life was the acceptance of the presidency of the Pugwash movement (see page 350), the informal international association of scientists seeking ways to a peaceful world.

The action was typical of Sir John; although a towering figure in nuclear physics, he had never confined himself to either that field or the laboratory in general.

In 1932, with E. T. S. Walton, using a \$2,500 accelerator at the Cavendish Lab., he brought about the first artificial transmutation of an element, verifying Einstein's prediction of the convertibility of mass and energy. The work won the Nobel Prize—and loosed new forces, for war and peace, with which Sir John coped for the rest of his life.

As director, he presided at the birth and nonage of Britain's Atomic Research Establishment, fusing military and civil uses of the atom.

Three years later, he returned to the academic life, as master of the new Churchill College at Cambridge, which he built into an outstanding science-oriented school, while still serving the government in a vast number of advisory capacities.

Sir John was 70 when he died Sept. 18 in Cambridge, England.

## OCEAN SEARCH

### Stevenson Abandoned

All efforts to set off its high-explosive cargo having failed, the Navy has now abandoned the sunken hulk of the Robert Louis Stevenson, a World War II Liberty ship it scuttled near Amchitka Island in the Aleutians (SN: 9/30).

Stevenson was to have provided a two-kiloton underwater blast to test this nation's seismic nuclear test detection network. The Navy now says its cargo is inert, the fuses having finally failed after a month of immersion at a depth of 2,800 feet. This was confirmed, the Navy says, by Stevenson's failure to explode when 24, 2,000-pound bombs were dropped on it Sept. 19.

## ARCHES OF SCIENCE

### Award to Conant

Dr. James B. Conant, retired president of Harvard University, has been named the winner of the 1967 Arches

of Science Award, which carries a cash prize of \$25,000 and a gold medal. The award is given annually to an American who has made an "outstanding contribution to the public understanding of the meaning of science to contemporary man." ♦

## OCEANOGRAPHY

### Studies Extended

Legislation to extend by six months the lives of the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources and the National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development will be introduced in the very near future, according to Representative Alton Lennon (D-N.C.).

He expects the bill, which will have the backing of his subcommittee on oceanography of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries committee, will pass both House and Senate quickly.

Originally, the Commission was to have completed its survey of the nation's marine needs and capabilities and forwarded its results to Congress and the President by July 1968. The Council, which is to recommend concrete steps for operation of a national ocean program, was to go out of existence four months after the commission—in November 1968.

## SATELLITES

### Transit 4-B Lives Again

Transit 4-B, a Navy satellite which had been inoperable since its transmitters failed in July 1962, has returned to life. Apparently the satellite is getting power from its solar cells, possibly because some component which had been slowly deteriorating has finally failed, releasing enough power to reactivate the transmitters. Launched Nov. 21, 1961, Transit 4-B carries an experimental SNAP-3 nuclear generator, but it is impossible to tell from the revived transmissions whether the unit is still working.

## SPACE AGE

### End of a Decade

October 4 marks the 10th anniversary of the Space Age. On that date, in 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, man's first artificial earth satellite. It transmitted for 21 days, and decayed Jan. 4, 1958.

## What makes us tick?

### INDIVIDUALITY IN PAIN AND SUFFERING

*Asenath Petrie*

This book identifies three kinds of personality—the reducer, the augments, and the moderate. The reducer tends to reduce what is perceived, the augments to increase, and the moderate to do neither. The tendency to reduce or augment explains not only why people react so differently to pain, but helps to explain a wide range of human behavior—such as why some people become alcoholics, or smokers, and why juvenile delinquents act the way they do. "The fundamental . . . potentialities of this whole approach are enormous."—Lawrence S. Kubie, M.D. The author is research associate, Department of Surgery, Harvard Medical School. \$5.00

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#### Their Significance for Mammalian Neurophysiology

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