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ADVANCING ELECTRONIC/OPTICAL
INSTRUMENTATION

LETTERS

to the editor

A suggestion

Sir:

The recent addition of Science Notes, giving abstracts of current work in various specific fields (Physical Science Notes, Behavioral . . . Medical . . . etc.) concentrates a great deal of fascinating material in a compact format.

Allow me to offer what I hope will be a constructive suggestion:

In many cases the note includes the source on which it is based, so that an intrigued reader will be able to get more detailed information. In others, you don't, leaving the fascinated reader frustrated.

A reference in parentheses to the article on which the note is based would relieve such frustration, since most of your subscribers live within 25 miles of a university library which carries the scholarly journals you cover.

*Rabbi Amos Edelheit
Willimantic, Conn.*

(We cite journal references where journals are the source of our information. But SCIENCE NEWS is a news magazine, not a journal of abstracts; more often than not our sources are the people conducting the research and not the scientific or technical journals. Our function is to keep our readers currently aware of developments in the fields of science and its applications. All we can suggest in case where a reporter's initiative, rather than a journal, is the source of a story is that further information may be secured from the researchers or institutions cited. Ed.)

Inventors invent

Sir:

Responsive to the report "Engineers Plan World Link" (SN: 11/25) I would like to point out that basic inventions are concepts which stem from the intuitive insight of individual inventors; whereas R & D relates primarily to the routine development of specific embodiments by teams of professional engineers, based on the concepts previously conceived by inventors.

The inference is obvious.

*Harry B. Fuchs
Farmingdale, N. Y.*

On precision

Sir:

In your article on Human Hibernation, (SN: 11/4), you state that "Body temperature is maintained precisely at 98.6 degrees F." The body temperature varies as much as 1 to 2 degrees F. in the course of every 24 hours; also

See page 606

