

SCIENCE FAIR HEADQUARTERS

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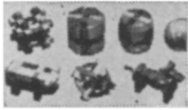
Do a crystallography project illustrated with large beautiful crystals you grow yourself. Kit includes the book "Crystals and Crystal Growing" and a generous supply of the chemicals you need to grow large display crystals of potassium aluminum sulfate (clear), potassium chromium sulfate (purple), potassium sodium tartrate (clear), nickel sulfate hexahydrate (blue-green) or heptahydrate (green), potassium ferricyanide (red), and copper acetate (blue-green).



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IT'S HERE—

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LETTERS

to the editor

Right on Target . . .

Sir:

I have been a subscriber of SCIENCE NEWS (Letter) so long that I have forgotten when I began. About 1942, I would guess. As a result I am a bit paternal about the magazine.

First, let me say that the recent changes in the format have been most gratifying. I objected strongly to the new (now old) cover and my wife, a professional artist, objected even more. The new cover—or I guess I should say the new, new cover—is very attractive.

Second, the division into departments seems to me preferable to the jumbling of astronomy, psychiatry, and biology.

Third, the writing seems to me on a much more professional level. The "Audubon Society" style to which I previously objected so strongly, seems to have vanished. Even the Nature Notes seem to have lost the "little birds in their nests greeting spring" tone which I found pretty hard to take.

Fourth, I am happy to see the end of the perennial crusade for Interlingua.

Fifth, I like the longer, more "in depth" articles interspersed with the brief summaries. Don't overdo it, however, there are plenty of sources for them—as SCIENCE, NATURE, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. The great beauty of SCIENCE NEWS is its brevity.

I also seem to detect less of an appeal to the high school science clubs. I would be the last to object to them and the first to encourage. It is a matter of balance, however. I prefer to see the magazine as appealing to the professional scientist interested in keeping in touch with a wide variety of areas.

I think you are also avoiding another of my pet peeves, the "Ain't Science going to be wonderful . . ." "Dr. X has a new technique with which he hopes to cure gonorrhea by telephone . . ." or something. We all hope to do wonders.

Let's stick to what scientists have done.

I do not find the letters to the editor very useful. On the other hand you aren't giving them much space.

Dean Fraser, Professor
Department of Microbiology
Indiana University
Bloomington

. . . or Way Off

Sir:

In spite of all the glowing compliments on the new format of your magazine, I don't like it. It took all summer before I did more than turn the first few pages and then regretfully laid it aside.

I tried to analyze what was wrong. Though I have failed to satisfy myself on all accounts I think I found some of the reasons: I miss the small tidbit of Nature Notes each week; I find the article titles and the reading which follow are less definitive; that is, they all run together and I am weary of them in format, without reading; I rebel against the issues which are almost entirely devoted to the "new science" which is hard, cold, efficient and unrelated to the tiny threads of life which, we must be reminded, exist.

These warm little bits of information are going to be what help humans understand themselves and how they fit into their world or their world will be a strange new place. You know, the World War IV will be fought with stones and clubs. It would be a long wait if we also had to go back to algae and fungus to prepare land for us.

I am renewing for one year only to see if I want the magazine more than that. Sorry about this.

Margaret Martling
Oak Park, Ill.

SCIENCE NEWS

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