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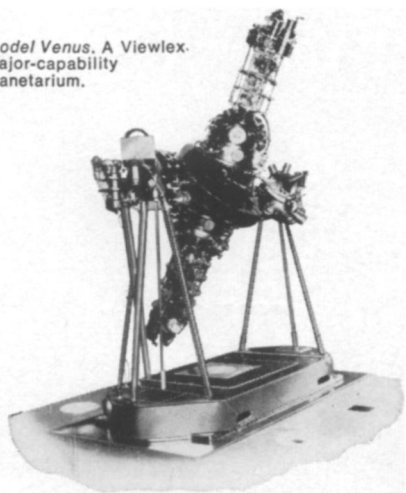
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LETTERS

to the editor

Shift to metric

Sir:

As is well known, most of us in the science community would like to see the United States convert to the metric system. There is just such a bill in Congress (SN: 3/4/67, p. 208).

I wish that the SCIENCE NEWS would convert. Why not state measurements in the metric system? Some, at least, are in metric units in the original articles. Where it would seem appropriate, the British equivalent could be in parentheses. In fact, using parentheses in this way would help us all get used to the comparative magnitudes of both systems and make a future transition easier in everyday life. It might even make it easier for parents to understand their grammar-school-age children who are learning the metric system in the AAAS science courses across the country. This might start a trend which would build and make the future nationwide conversion seem that much less abrupt.

I, for one, think you would be performing a valuable service by making use of the metric system.

Peter E. Roehr
Physics Dept.
Wisconsin State University
Superior, Wis.

(We would welcome discussion of Mr. Roehr's proposal. Ed.)

Address communications to Editor
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Washington, D. C. 20036

films OF THE WEEK

Listing is 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.

ANGULAR MOMENTUM OF CIRCULARLY POLARIZED RADIATION. 16mm, b&w, sound, 18 min. The torque produced when circularly polarized microwaves are absorbed by a torsion pendulum is demonstrated. The apparatus is described and the method of producing circularly polarized radiation discussed. Data are given so that the student may compare the torque measured to the torque expected from the power absorbed. Audience: college. Purchase \$120 from Universal Education and Arts, 221 Park Ave., S., New York, N.Y. 10003.

THE EMBATTLED CELL. 16mm, color, sound, 21 min. Shows actual behavior of living cells, both normal and cancerous, within the human lung. Time-lapse photography illustrates the struggle of the body's defensive cells against individual cells. The air sacs and their delicate capillaries are shown as these structures are affected by air pollutants such as cigarette smoke. Audience: science students in high school and college, physicians, general adult audiences. Free loan information from local chapter of the American Cancer Society.

GEMINI: AN END AND A BEGINNING. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Highlights the historic space walks and rendezvous with Target Agena, and covers behind-the-scene training activities including experiments in weightlessness conducted in high-flying aircraft and in underwater tanks. Audience: general. Free loan information from Public Relations Department, Gulf Oil Corp., Gulf Building, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15230. (Based on News Special produced by NBC-TV.)

THE HUMAN BODY: THE BRAIN. 16mm, b&w and color, sound, 16 min. The human brain—about 3¼ pounds of sensory, associative, and motor neurons—is the central organ of the nervous system and regulator of all voluntary and involuntary actions in the body. Laboratory demonstrations, X-ray footage, specimens and animation are employed to visualize its basic functions. Audience: high school. Purchase \$90 b&w or \$180 color from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

HUMAN ONCHOCERCIASIS IN AFRICA. 16mm, color, sound, 32 min. Region studied and social importance (blindness); clinical examination (cystic, dermic, and ocular syndromes). Parasitic cycle in humans and in the vector (black fly). Action against both vector and parasite. Audience: medical, health personnel. Free loan (\$3.00 fee for handling and postage) from the Society for French American Cultural Services and Educational Aid, 972 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021.

THE LASER: A LIGHT FANTASTIC. 16mm, color, sound, 21 min. Offers a general introduction to the laser, explaining how the laser produces coherent light in which all the light waves travel simultaneously in the same direction and at the same frequency. This organized beam of light can be used in making precise measurement, in welding metals, in surgery, and in producing a three-dimensional image called a hologram. Audience: high school. Purchase \$225 from Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025. (Produced by CBS-TV.)

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