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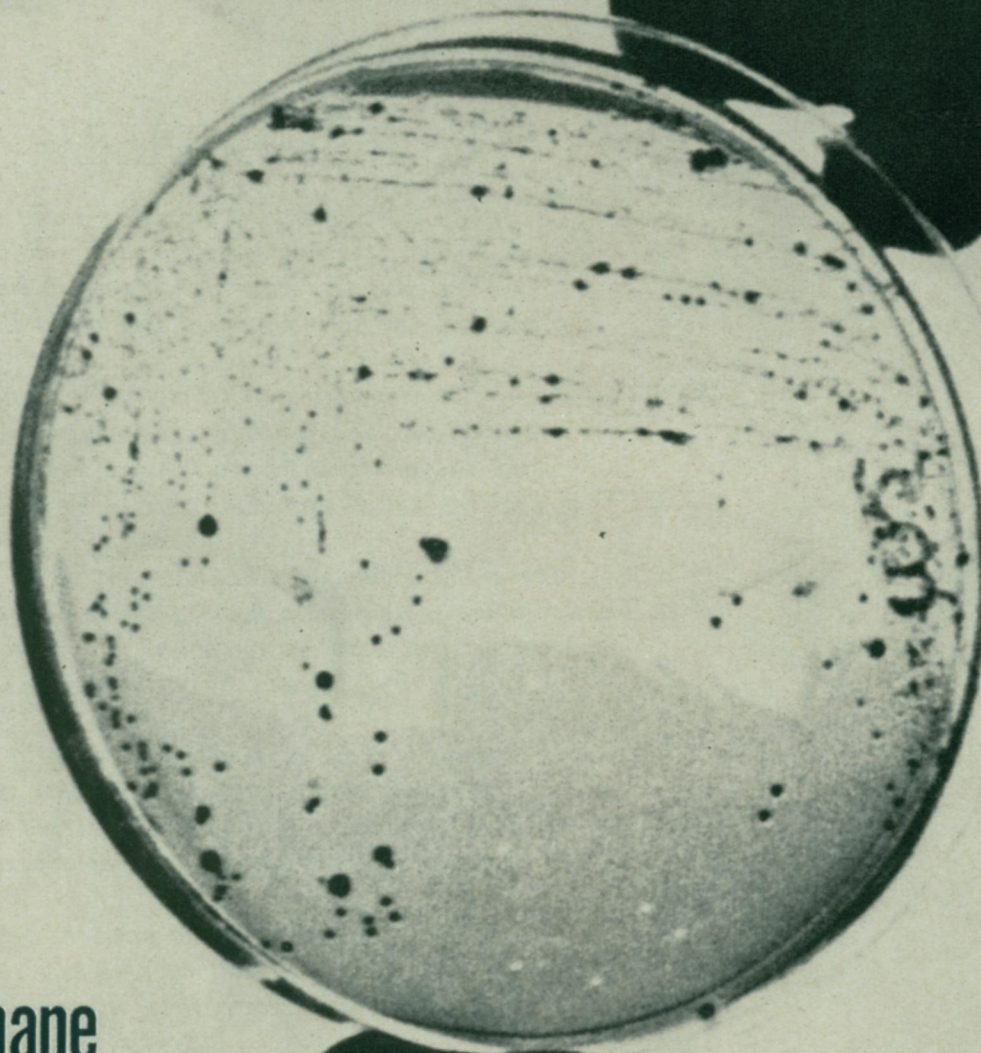


JUNE 15 1968/VOLUME 93/No. 24 P. 561-584

# SCIENCE NEWS

vestiges of genesis  
LSD and alcoholism  
letter from Sydney

new shape  
of dental  
research



Those who report on astronomers' affairs occasionally have nights as sleepless as the scientists whose work they cover. Out of one such night, in one reporter's mind-racing fight with words that refused to stay out of his head, came the inspiration for a bit of doggerel, which we unblushingly dedicate to graduate student S. Jocelyn Bell of Cambridge University's Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory, whose persistence led astronomy's most awesome personages to the pulsar's puzzling performance.

## The Pulsar's Pindar

*Rhythmically pulsating radio source,  
Can you not tell us what terrible force  
Renders your density all so immense  
To account for your signal so sharp and intense?*

*Are you so dense that no matter you own;  
Not atoms nor protons, save neutrons alone?  
And do you then fluctuate once every second  
So fixed that by you all our clocks might be reckoned?*

*Or are you two stars bound together in action  
That spin like a lighthouse beam gone to distraction?  
What in the world can account for your course  
O rhythmically pulsating radio source?*

*And perhaps is there more than your radio beam?  
Perhaps visible light in a radiant stream?  
And what if the cause of your well-metered twitch  
Is a strange but intelligent hand at the switch?*

*A world of astronomers ponder, a-pacing,  
The cause of your infernal, rock-steady spacing,  
To see your pulse vary, they valiantly strive,  
From 1.3372795.*

*But the biggest of mysteries plaguing our earth  
Is, how of your kind can there be such a dearth?  
In infinite space one should find ever more;  
Can it be that your number indeed is but four?  
—Detje*

## OF THE WEEK

- 565 Submarine rescue: slim gains in five years
- 566 HEW gets ready for the big budget cut
- 567 Father in the delivery room
- 568 AMA will soften its views on the Government  
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- 570 **Aerospace Notes:** Moon analyzer being calibrated; Predicting solid fuel shelf life; The organization gap in navigation; Heart-watching at Cape Kennedy; Laser in a lighthouse; Giant satellite for military talk
- 573 **Physical Sciences Notes:** Method for synthesizing Chinese characters; Phosphorus found superconducting; Diffused silicon resistors; Radius of Venus determined by radar; Nuclear explosions for water needs; A physical model for Old Faithful
- 574 **Medical Sciences Notes:** Malignancy linked to chromosome imbalance; Internal isotope detector; Degrees of disability in lung disease; Tremors reduced by drug; Nerves of squid to be studied
- 583 **Current Patents:** Advance probe to trigger missile; Guarded cutting instrument; Method for estimating interferon; Updating the billy club



Microbiology, among other disciplines not ordinarily associated with dentistry, is changing the course of dental research. A microbiologist examines a culture of decay-causing streptococci. p. 571 (photo NIDR).

## IN SCIENCE FIELDS

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- 578 **Addiction:** LSD vs. alcoholism

## FROM ABROAD

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- Geneva:** Window on East German medicine
- Australia** Britain lessens research support
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