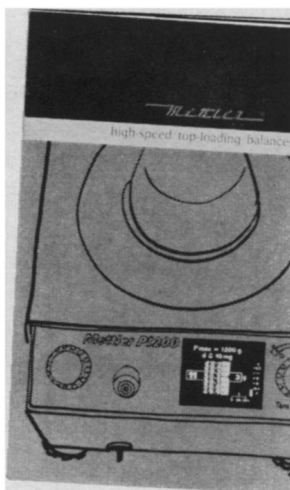


New catalog describes Mettler top-loading balances with new digital readout



Mettler's high-speed, easy-to-use, top-loading balances with digital readout are fully described in a new catalog. Included are units with performance levels ranging from semi-analytical to 11-kilo high capacity. All are precise, rapid-reading and offer improved precision-to-capacity relationships.

All Mettler top-loaders can be used for five different types of weighings. Included are weighing of unknowns, batching, check-weighing, weighing-in, and below-balance weighing.

Request Bulletin P from Mettler Instrument Corporation, 20 Nassau Street, Princeton, N. J. 08540.

METTLER®

A stout heart beats in the tiny body of electronic **mini/alarm**, world's tiniest alarm clock. Shockproof, 17-jewel movement, unbreakable mainspring and luminous dial. Its determined "mad-hornet" alarm (powered by a tiny mercury cell) can be heard from the depths of attache case or handbag, and will keep you from missing your flight or forgetting to feed the parking meter. An elegant and practical companion, with detachable keyring on its black, red or green leather case. (Please specify color.) \$56 post/paid from

haverhill's

Mail & phone orders promptly filled.
Refund in 2 weeks if not delighted.
584 Washington St., San Francisco 94111
(415) 981-5688 (Calif. res. add 5% tax.)



SN-1207

Letters from p. 565

Resources and population

I do not accept the conclusions drawn by Pope Paul in his encyclical *Human Life*, and suggest that the Rev. Guy J. Cyr's letter (SN: 11/9, p. 460) in support of it does not reflect a realistic view of the problem.

Consider his statement "there is really enough food, fiber and fuel. . . ." The U.S. alone currently consumes roughly 25 percent of the world's output of resources to support *part* of its 6 percent of the world's population in the manner to which it has become accustomed. It currently consumes 650 million gallons of fuel a day. Known reserves of minerals and fuel would not permit extending this kind of consumption to even the current world population.

I question whether the food production capacity of the world is what Rev. Cyr suggests. Admittedly food production is not as efficient as it could be, but then even if existing populations were adequately fed, it would tax any feasible means of utilizing present capacity. As for food from the sea, many species of marine life are already being over harvested. And remember that sea life is only prevalent along the coasts; the middle of an ocean is a desert.

It is not clear why "more people would create a healthier world economy." Present economies demand that markets keep expanding. But doubtless these concepts will one day have to change. After all, what happens when we reach 20 billion people? Why not face the problem at 3 billion?

One notices that Rev. Cyr is mainly concerned with the problem of food, and gives little attention to the problem of the quality of life. Where are all of these people going to live, and where will they go for recreation, remembering that much more land will now be needed to grow food?

More serious studies of the problems of caring for the world population (e.g. Dr. Paul Ehrlich's "The Population Bomb," and the publications of the Hugh Moore Fund) suggest that present technology and available space are adequate for no more than 3 billion to 5 billion people. Assuming that there is more to life than getting one's meals each day, it is somewhat urgent that the lower figure be strived for.

*Robert V. Kline
Research Assistant, Physics
Cal Tech
Pasadena, Calif.*

Address communications to Editor,
Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036