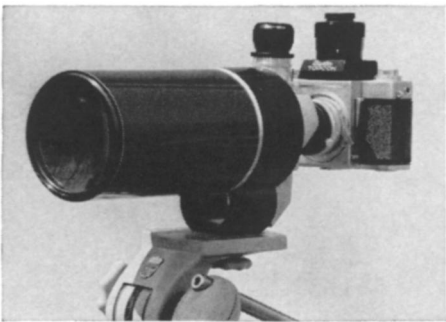


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# QUESTAR

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## 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.

**PRISMS: SOME PROPERTIES.** 16mm, color, sound, 12 min. A kite string, a flat kite and a box kite serve as an opening review of the basic properties of three-dimensional objects. Through an examination of a conventional triangular glass prism, the student is introduced to the basic properties of prisms. Several other prisms of different appearance are examined and tested for their properties. After each example, several objects with similar shapes from everyday life are shown. Audience: elementary, junior high. Purchase \$140 from Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

**THE ROBIN FAMILY.** 16mm, color, sound, 13 min. The patterns of parental care generally characteristic of bird reproduction and the early development of young birds. Follows the rearing of a single family of robins, beginning with the selection of a protected spot for the nest. Audience: K-6. Purchase \$170 or rental \$12.50 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

**STILL WATERS.** 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. A combination of music and under- and above-water photography. Shows the teeming world of activity beneath the surface of a lake. Everywhere there is motion and the drama of life and death. Audience: general. Purchase \$185 or rental \$15 from Contemporary Films/McGraw-Hill, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

**STREAM TABLE FILM LOOP SERIES.** 8mm or Super-8mm, color, silent. Series of 12 single-concept films illustrating the natural processes of stream development and their effects in forming and changing the earth's surface. Each loop was filmed using a stream table, colored sand and other particles, and realistic landscaping. Titles are: Alluvial Fans; Deltas; Development of Shorelines; Mass Wasting; Dry; Mass Wasting; Moist; Sedimentation; Turbidity Currents; Sedimentation; Settling Rates; Stream Cut-Offs; Stream Erosion Cycle; Stream Piracy; Type of Shorelines and Waterfalls. Audience: geology classes. Purchase \$230 for 8mm series, or \$245 for Super-8mm series, or individual prices on request from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Inc., P.O. Box 1712, Rochester, N.Y. 14603.

**TOLES PLAQUEES D'ACIER (NICKEL PLATED STEEL).** 16mm, color, French sound only, 17 min. Shows the production of economical heavy stainless steel sheets by welding together an ordinary steel sheet to a more costly nickel-plated steel sheet, and the main uses of such sheets in chemical industries. Audience: industrial, technical. Loan for \$5 service charge from Society for French America Cultural Services and Educational Aid, 972 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021.

**VALUE ANALYSIS.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. Tells the story of what happened when an engineering company decided to introduce value analysis. It emphasizes the importance of the team approach, and describes the five stages of such analysis: Information, Speculation, Investigation, Recommendation, and Implementation. A typical value analysis session is shown, where the component under review is a pump base. The extension of the investigation outside of the formal meeting is illustrated in a visit to a specialist plastic supplier. A promising approach is followed through to its conclusion, when a saving of 75% of the component cost is achieved. Audience: managers, engineers. Purchase \$160 or rental \$27.50 from Roundtable Films, 321 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90212.

## LETTERS

# to the editor

1969 March 22

Writing dates as day-month-year is not logical. Most measurable quantities are expressed with the most significant item first. We usually say feet and inches, pounds and ounces, minutes and seconds, etc. The Chinese write dates as year-month-day. I wish that our Government would also write dates as year-month-day.

Roland Peterson  
Electrical Engineer  
Waltham, Mass.

## Michelson and Morley

Re: "Particles Through the Looking Glass" (SN: 2/22, p. 196).

The Michelson-Morley Experiment, which showed the absence of "velocity-through-the-ether" for the earth, was done in 1881. Was there really an 1887 experiment that showed that no material object could move faster than light?

I have read (though cannot cite references) that Einstein said on several occasions that he had not known of the M-M experiment, and that it certainly did not provide any incentive for him in developing relativity theory.

C. M. Delaney  
Department of Chemistry  
Wells College  
Aurora, New York

(Most sources give 1887 as the date of the famous experiment, referring to an article by Michelson and Morley in the *Silliman Journal*, vol. 34, of that year. Einstein used to say that he did not know of the experiment nor of Lorentz's paper on relativistic contraction, but the ideas were in the air. It is hard to believe that he was not influenced by the intellectual climate of his time, particularly since he did not publish his theory until 1905, 17 years later. Ed.)

## SCIENCE NEWS

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Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$7.50; 2 yrs., \$13.50; 3 yrs., \$19.50. Special trial offer: 39 weeks, \$3.97. Single copy, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C. Established as Science News Letter® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation. UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

### ADVERTISING

L. D. Young, Advertising Director, SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Phone 202-667-8945.

Advertising Representatives: SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS. General Advertising Department: 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., TN 7-5000; 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., SU 7-3355; Suite 211, Braniff Building, Dallas, Tex., PL 7-3847; 908 E. Northland Tower, Southfield, Mich., 444-4595; 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., OL 3-0026; Room 1522, Philadelphia National Bank Building, Philadelphia, Pa., LO 3-6275; 100 California St., San Francisco, Calif., 989-5570; Suite 417, 3384 Peachtree Rd., N.E., Atlanta, Ga., 261-5171.