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the portable observatory in less than one cubic foot of leather case

Questar slips out of its handsome fitted leather case ready for observing. Then, just by pushing the anodized aluminum legs into their sockets you tilt the telescope into its polar equatorial position. How simple it is to align it with the earth's axis! Only a moment is needed to locate the pole star in the finder, adjust and clamp the forward leg. And Questar's mechanical perfection permits no quiver or shake.

Now you find that the effortless controls in hour angle and declination provide the smoothest following of celestial objects, and for more convenience you connect the synchronous electric drive to your house current. All this on a tabletop, where you can observe comfortably seated, completely relaxed. Should you want to photograph all that you see with Questar's superb optics, just add one of the Questar-modified 35-mm. SLR cameras to the rear of the control box. Another Questar, the Field Model, is shown below with Questar-modified Topcon camera attached.



Questar, the world's finest, most versatile small telescope, priced from \$795, is described in our newest booklet which contains 100 photographs by Questar owners. Send \$1 for mailing anywhere in North America. By air to rest of Western Hemisphere, \$2.50; Europe and North Africa, \$3.00; elsewhere, \$3.50.

QUESTAR

BOX 130, NEW HOPE, PENNA. 18938

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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.

ACCIDENTALLY YOURS. 16mm, color, sound 15 min. Stresses the safe use of consumer products and shows how home accidents can be avoided. Eve and Adam Smith, a typical suburban couple, introduce types of accidents which commonly occur in the home such as those involving glass doors, plastic bags and power mowers, and point out ways in which these accidents could have been avoided. Audience: general. Purchase \$195 or rental \$12.50 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

AMERICA IN SPACE: THE FIRST DECADE. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. A pictorial review of the U.S. space program, 1958-68. Summarizes in nontechnical terms the accomplishments in major areas of space research and discovery, including aeronautics, sounding rocket and scientific satellite studies, weather and communication satellites, rocketry, advanced research and manner space flight. Audience: general. Free loan from NASA field libraries, or NASA Headquarters, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20546.

BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS—M-1582. 16mm, color, sound, 18 min. Presents a series of clinical blood pressure measurements using a mercury sphygmomanometer and stethoscope. Each scene shows a column of mercury descending on a sphygmomanometer scale with accompanying stethoscope sounds. Following a practice reading, 14 separate readings are presented as test segments. Viewers record their observations during the pause between segments. Audience: medical and nursing students and paramedical personnel, field investigators employed in studies involving the measurement of blood pressure. Free loan from National Medical Audiovisual Center (Annex), Chamblee, Ga. 30005, or purchase from DuArt Film Laboratories, 245 W. 55th St., New York, N.Y. 10019.

DEBRIEF: APOLLO 8. HQ-188-1969. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. The story of man's first journey to the moon. Shows highlights of the Apollo 8 mission from lift-off to recovery, with emphasis on lunar and earth photography; and includes comments on this historic space mission by prominent Americans. Audience: general. Free loan from NASA field libraries or National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20546.

THE HOT DRY DESERT. 16mm, color, sound, 16 min. Depicts a day in the hot, dry desert. It establishes the causes for desert areas, and it indicates some of the factors involved in preserving the balance of nature. It illustrates the adaptation to environment. The geography of the desert lands is shown through landscapes and close-up views of surface features. Audience: intermediate, junior high. Purchase \$170 or rental \$10 from Bailey Films, 6509 De Longpre Ave., Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

PLANETARY CIRCULATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE. 16mm or Super 8mm, b&w, sound, 27 min. Introduces the student to the primary features of the average large-scale motions in the troposphere in which warm air is carried poleward and cool air is carried equator-ward. Next, laboratory demonstrations are used to identify the major factors responsible for air motions. Audience: secondary, college. Purchase 16mm \$150 or 8mm Super Sound \$119 from Universal Education and Visual Arts, 221 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003.

LETTERS

to the editor

Excitons excite

The article on "Excitons" (SN: 4/19, p. 378), describing our work, is an excellent and factual description of the subject of excitons and exciton fission. I had only a brief discussion over the telephone with your Dietrick Thomsen and am amazed that there are no inaccuracies or errors in the SCIENCE NEWS article. The person who wrote this article not only read our original paper on exciton fission thoroughly, but was also able to summarize it in easily understandable, but not in oversimplified terms.

*Nicholas Geacintov, Research Scientist
Radiation and Solid State Laboratory
New York University*

Reservoir, not source

Your (SN: 4/12, p. 355) "Gallstones," line 5 and 6, "Physicians believe that they arise when the bile produced by the gallbladder." . . .

This could be very disturbing to people who have had their gallbladders removed, as they might believe that they no longer would get the bile they need.

The definitions in the Medical Dictionary are:

Bile—A fluid secreted by the liver and poured into the intestine.

Gallbladder—The pear-shaped reservoir for the bile.

*Howard D. Vogt, President
Fluoritab Corporation
Flint, Mich.*

(Both Dr. George Kistiakowsky and Dr. Herbert York testified before the Senate Subcommittee on International Organization on missile defense (SN: 3/22, p. 280). They testified along parallel lines, but it was Dr. York, not Dr. Kistiakowsky, who called the ABM, "not an ultimate weapon but an ultimate absurdity." Ed.)

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