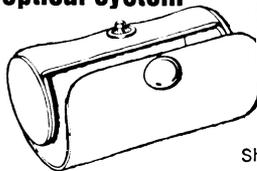


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## films OF THE WEEK

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.

**COMBUSTION TECHNIQUES IN LIQUID SCINTILLATION COUNTING.** 16mm, color, sound, 25 min. A new refined combustion technique in liquid scintillation counting has been developed at the Argonne National Laboratory which combines the simplicity of dry catalytic combustion with the increased efficiency of standard vacuum line techniques. The new technique enables the biologist to prepare and measure very low beta energies in large numbers of biological samples. It has removed the "quenching" effects of oxygen and color, eliminated the challenge of sample solubility and enabled the biologist to measure double-labeled compounds independently without sacrificing the efficiency of each label in the presence of the other. Audience: professional. Free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Department of Public Information, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545.

**DRILL SHARPENING.** 16mm, color, sound, 10 min. Illustrates how the correct regrinding of drills affects the accuracy, ease and time of drilling holes. Also explains the different parts of a standard twist drill, how incorrect point angles and clearance angles reduce efficiency, and how to maintain the drill in top condition for uninterrupted production. The proper handling of the drill is demonstrated throughout according to recommended safety and efficiency practices. Audience: industrial training classes. Purchase or rental information available from Marshal Maintenance, Dept. 4960, 529 South Clinton Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08611.

**HOW WE BREATHE.** 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 11 min. A working model of the lungs—two balloons in a bell jar—shows pupils exactly how they breathe. Simple experiments with oxygen and carbon dioxide—for example, pumping carbon dioxide, then oxygen, into an open jar containing a burning candle—visualize for pupils the effects of these invisible gases on their bodies. They learn how blood makes use of the oxygen inhaled in breathing by delivering it to all parts of the body and carrying carbon dioxide back to the lungs for exhalation. Audience: primary. Purchase color \$130 or b&w \$65 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

*Science News is shifting its production schedules in order to insure faster delivery of news developments as they occur. Because of the change-over, the next (July 26) issue will be delivered a few days late. Thereafter the news covered in each issue will reflect developments much closer to the magazine's cover date than has heretofore been possible. Ed.*

## LETTERS

# to the editor

### Consanguinity and fund cuts

I write to draw attention to a report of statements attributed to me at the recent meeting of the American Academy of Neurology in Washington, D.C. (SN: 5/17, p. 476).

The reason for my being interviewed by your correspondent at that meeting was the fact that I had presented a paper which indicated that it was possible to identify the heterozygote (carrier) of Wilson's disease by measuring the whole-body turnover and the hepatic handling of copper following intravenous administration of a tracer dose of radioactive copper, <sup>67</sup>Copper.

I did not say that Wilson's disease is sometimes caused by the marriage of cousins, but I did say that in some series of families studied, e.g., by Alexander Bearn, there was a high rate of parental consanguinity.

I did not say that persons with the disease should be advised not to marry; I did say that the offspring of a marriage between a homozygote and a normal person could be all carriers, if the heredity is indeed autosomal recessive; and I did say that the ability to identify the carrier (heterozygote) was important for genetic counselling.

Finally, I did not say I feared that the Administration cuts would put a stop to the work; what I did say was that the work had been supported solely by an NIH research grant, because of the lack of knowledge even of the existence of the disease among the lay public, and that without that NIH support little or none of my clinical and laboratory investigations of Wilson's disease would have been possible.

Sean O'Reilly, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.  
Chief of Neurology and  
Clinical Neurochemistry  
San Francisco General Hospital

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