



**Coors U.S.A.  
Filtration Equipment  
first because  
it lasts,  
and lasts,  
and  
lasts**

Coors laboratory filtration equipment is available in many sizes and styles. Made of strong, impervious chemical porcelain, built to take normal laboratory abuse year after year. Easy to clean, nonreactive. Coors filtration equipment comes in 15 styles, 74 sizes, including Buchner funnels, Hirsch funnels, conical funnels, filter cones, Gooch crucibles, Bitumen crucibles, Caldwell crucibles, discs, cups and plates. For micron-size filtration, Coors offers porous-bottom crucibles, Emich micro-filtersticks, and a variety of porous cups, plates and cylinders. See your local laboratory-supply dealer or send for catalog.

**Coors Porcelain Company,  
Golden, Colorado 80401**

Circle No. 129 on Reader Service Card

308

## to the editor

### To Roberts' defense

After reading Fortunato Comunale's letter (SN: 1/31, p. 118), I assume that he as a scientist or engineer has data to support his statement: "Science and society as a whole will benefit more from the space activities of NASA (and the aeronautics as well) in the next five years than 'earth application projects' could have hoped to accomplish in 500 years without utilizing the advancements generated by the intensive benefits of the research and development of the entire space program." If not, his statement is suspect. If he does, I would like to see the data.

*A. J. Sharp, Professor  
Department of Botany  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville*

I think one of our foremost and forward-looking scientists, a man of recognized authority and vision, Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, is attacked here with unjustified vehemence and sarcasm.

Dr. Roberts is far from alone in his opinion among scientists, including many who have been prominent in NASA's space program. There are many arguments, which now appear valid both for and against Dr. Roberts' position; an intolerably critical attitude toward either side is unwarranted.

Comunale appears to equate opposition to manned Mars exploration with opposition to the whole extraterrestrial space program; manifestly this is an extreme extension of Dr. Roberts' views. The fact that Roberts favors earth applications actually supports Comunale's emphasis on what has been called the beneficial "spin-off" of the space program, though I grant the increased stimulus of deep-space exploration technical developments. Roberts' remarks were directed toward the future programming.

Given the motivation it deserves, the industrially useful technological advances that have come from the space program could have been developed, with Government support, without the space program. I grant that in actuality they would not have been.

The extreme conclusion that "I expect Roberts felt the same way about aviation or the automobile" bespeaks a letter written in too much emotional heat, which ought to have been left in the drawer overnight for re-reading before mailing. (Dr. Roberts was born in 1915!) Yet even here, I would remind Comunale that environmental scientists, psychologists and social scientists are

not in unanimous agreement that these, and other technological and industrial advances, have actually contributed favorably to the quality of life on this planet.

*Dr. Philip S. Riggs  
Professor of Astronomy  
Drake University  
Des Moines, Iowa*

In reply to Fortunato Comunale's letter, I would like to ask: What are the intense benefits of the research and development of the entire space program? His reply is as conservative and conventional as he accuses Dr. Roberts of being. How is the space program expense to be explained to the people of the world? I don't think Comunale's mind accommodates the immensity of the world's poor people, starving people, sick people, helpless people. Does he have any ideas on helping them?

It seems to me that this typically simple answer to the objections of Dr. Roberts and many like him is totally meaningless. Comunale is spouting cliches in the exact same fashion as he accuses Dr. Roberts. It's very sad.

*Emily Cohen  
Brooklyn, N. Y.*

### A rebuttal

For some time, I have been casting about for a good excuse to cancel my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS; your article concerning the American Medical Association (SN: 1/10, p. 47) has furnished the excuse par excellence.

Speaking from a background of 15 years as a member of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, representing the section on Internal Medicine, and for 12 years as a member of the AMA Council on Medical Education, I can say without any fear of contradiction that many of the statements made in the article "Grappling with a new image" are half-truths or distortions of the facts. To be sure, the American Medical Association has made some mistakes. What organization of its size has not, including the Federal Government? Yet, the House of Delegates is a completely democratic organization and has consistently stood for constitutional Americanism, which is something your article seems to look down upon. In fact, the article in question is obviously written by one of the neoliberals of the Fabian Socialist type, the kind that has dragged England to her knees and is fast doing the same thing to our country.

The socialistic politician feels that a

science news, vol. 97

young man should spend 10 to 15 years of his life and a considerable private fortune—oftentimes borrowed in part or in whole—and then willingly become a pawn in the hands of a Federal bureaucrat who knows nothing of medicine but who lays down all the ground rules for its practice. What a travesty on reality, fair play and plain common sense!

A complete rebuttal of your article is to be found on page 4 of Jan. 19, 1970 issue of AMERICAN MEDICAL NEWS by Dr. E. B. Howard, executive vice president of the AMA, entitled "Looking at Medicine's Future." An organization such as the AMA which spends the greater part of its effort in an attempt to find better ways through scientific activities of improving the health of the American people is certainly not deserving of the derogatory article published by you.

C. T. Stone, M.D.  
Galveston, Tex.

#### Not a race

In that part of an article dealing with Dr. Max Born (SN: 1/10, p. 38) there has been drawn to my attention a piece of political humanism which puts SCIENCE NEWS outside the pale of science.

In the last paragraph of the article on Dr. Born's death we find the statement: "In 1933, Dr. Born was dismissed from his post for racial reasons. . . ."

Dr. Max Born professed the Judean religion and hence could not, as your article states, have been "dismissed for racial reasons." He could only have been dismissed for religious reasons.

Science and all the contributory fields show that those who profess Judaism are not a race.

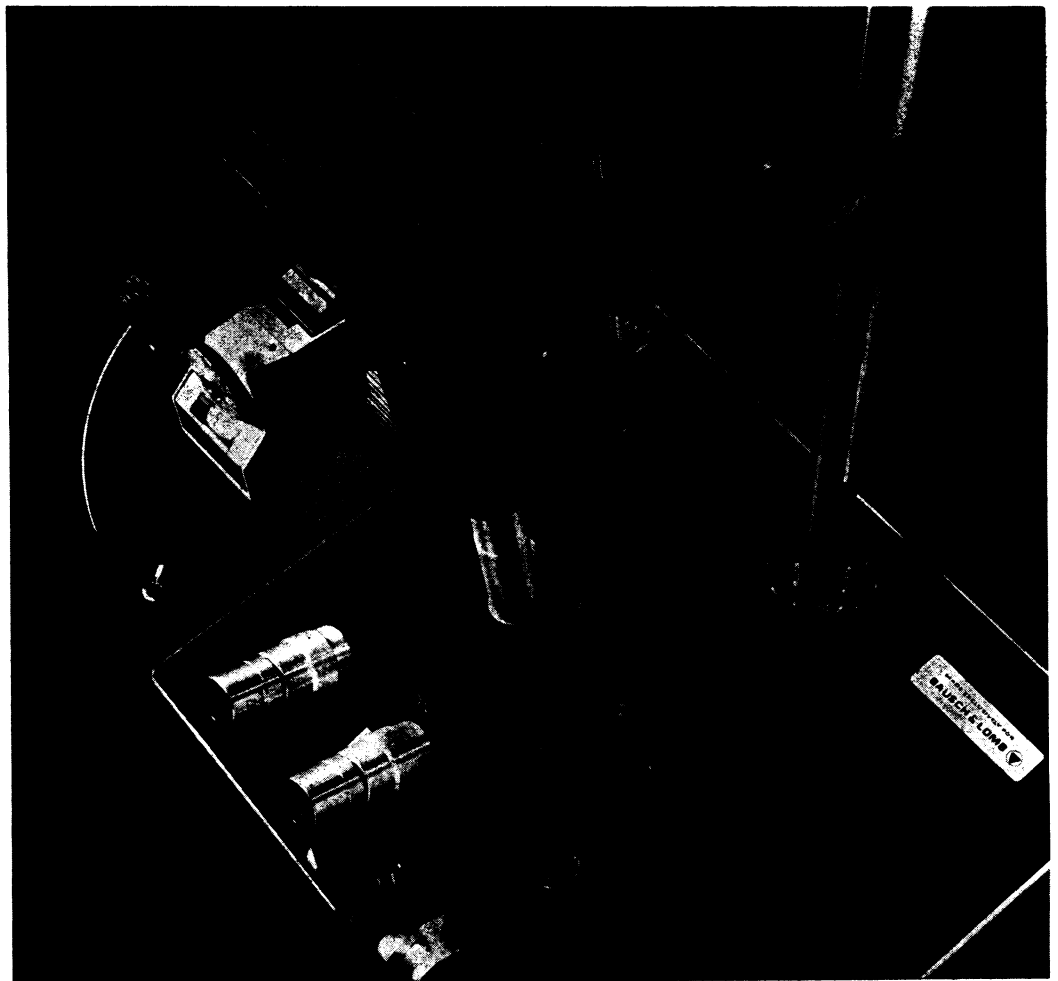
It was such sly finagling that debauched science in the Weimar Republic and placed the Nazis in the position of sole arbiter.

Marion Cox  
Cave Creek, Ariz.

(Mr. Cox is correct: Those who profess Judaism do not constitute a race. Judaism is a religion and a culture. Dr. Born, however, was not religious and it was not for religious reasons, then, that he was driven out of Nazi Germany; it was because he was Jewish by birth. In the interest of accuracy in one area we fell heir to error in another. Ed.)

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

march 28, 1970



## Bausch & Lomb brings you a Versatile 35mm System for "One-Shot Exposure" Micro/Macro Photography

Now, you can get outstanding photomicrographs every time. The unique internal spotmetering device takes accurate light measurements through the microscope optics so you get correctly exposed film from every shot. The Bausch & Lomb 35mm Micro/Macro System lets you switch quickly from micro to macro. Change a few components, and you're taking perfectly exposed photomicrographs of gross specimens.

All the agonizing calculations that made photomicrography complex, have been simplified or eliminated. The B&L System utilizes high quality Canon components having many exclusive and convenient features such as a quick-loading film system and a Light Meter Amplifier that increases sensitivity 64 times. It allows measurements not possible with other camera systems. You get perfectly exposed pictures even under extremely low light conditions.

Write for our free Catalog 42-2326 which has all the exciting details.

**BAUSCH & LOMB**

SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENT DIVISION

10627 Bausch Street, Rochester, New York 14602  
Circle No. 128 on Reader Service Card