

APOLLO 12: PINPOINT FOR SCIENCE. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Presents a chronological story of the historic mission from the launching through the return of the astronauts to the recovery ship U.S.S. Hornet. The story is told largely by the astronauts themselves through extensive use of their commentary during the mission. Motion pictures, still and television photographs are employed to visualize the highlights of the journey. Film emphasizes the pinpoint accuracy of the lunar landing and the scientific experiments taken to the moon by the astronauts. Audience: general. Free loan from nearest NASA Research Center, or purchase information from Sales Branch, National Audiovisual Center (GSA), Washington, D. C. 20409.

SOVIET MEDICINE. 16mm, b&w, sound, 30 min. Soviet medical practice is viewed in terms of its similarities and differences when compared with the practice of medicine in the United States. The health of Soviet citizens is considered a public responsibility, and consequently all citizens receive required periodic health checkups and free medical care. In Russia, where there is a stress on medical training of teams rather than individuals, there is a greater emphasis on all types of physical therapy. According to Dr. Herbert Mayer, the physician who made this film, Soviet hospitals compare favorably to United States city and county hospitals except that everything is free of charge. Audience: medical, secondary school, college, general. Purchase \$150 or rental \$7.25 from Indiana University Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

THRESHOLD: RESEARCH AND CARE OF PEOPLE. 16mm, color, sound, 27 min. Using one clinical specialty—*anesthesiology*—for purposes of illustration, the film indicates its broad scope and shows its activities in respiratory and intensive care units for the critically ill and in the diagnosis and treatment of persistent pain. Science cut from laboratory to bedside, from a young man undergoing an elaborately monitored of drug action in his brain to infants sustained by intensive care after major surgery. Audience: general. Purchase from National Audiovisual Center (GSA), Washington, D. C. 20904, or free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service, 2323 New Hyde Park Rd., New Hyde Park, N. Y. 11040.

UNWED MOTHERS IN TODAY'S WORLD. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. A group therapy session with four unwed mothers—two who have just had their babies, two who have yet to deliver. They discuss their fears, feelings, attitudes, what they have learned from the experience. Discussion leader: Jean Bolton May, executive director, Florence Crittenton Home in San Francisco. Audience: high school, college, adult. Purchase \$225 or rental \$20 from Lawren Productions Inc., P.O. Box 1542, Burlingame, Calif. 94010.

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.

to the editor

On the way up

I was pleased to note that the cover of the issue (1/24) of *SCIENCE NEWS* was in full color. To me, this represents a step forward for science, as well as for *SCIENCE NEWS*. *SCIENCE NEWS* represents a clear, concise picture of what's new in science and the fact that the cover is in color indicates that *SCIENCE NEWS* is on the way up and, therefore, so are the scientific attitudes of the laymen.

I would like to say thank you for helping to abolish the ivory-tower image that has previously separated the science world from the world of everyday American living.

*Moe Rubenzahl
Neversink, N.Y.*

Smallpox vaccine

The article on the vaccine controversy (SN: 1/31, p. 129) is a responsible and accurate piece of writing. It summarizes the controversy well and avoids the tendency to depict it as a poorly controlled cockfight.

However:

□ Dr. Lane and I are epidemiologists, not immunologists, which will certainly raise the hackles of our immunologist colleagues whose world is one of antibodies and cellular realities rather than of disease among populations.

□ It is fair to say that NCDC does in fact set Federal national policy regarding immunization practices. The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service has this responsibility, but policy is generated here through the medium of the Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices, whose recommendations appear in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* subsequent to each of the meetings.

You are, however, correct in that local health practices are governed by local health regulations by and large. This is particularly true in the smallpox vaccination field, where various state laws, options and local regulations apply to vaccination. No Federal or NCDC policy could really become national until local and state authorities act to amend their applicable statutes.

*Dr. J. D. Millar, Director
Smallpox Eradication Program
National Communicable
Disease Center
Atlanta, Ga.*

Gravity's tug

In "Gravity's tug on the ocean floor" (SN: 2/21, p. 191), Dr. James Hays of Columbia University is cited as suggesting that "as the underthrust edge of the plate extended farther down into the earth . . . the gravitational force on it became greater. . . ."

The concepts and implications of plate tectonics are difficult enough without a gravity that increases with depth. Within the earth it should decrease.

*D. B. Williamson
(on behalf of Isaac Newton)
Department of Physics
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(The implication is not that the mechanism is related to an increase in gravity with depth. The effect is due simply to the increased pull on the surface portion of the plate as the mass of material headed downward becomes greater. Ed.)

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Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036*

SCIENCE NEWS

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