

# new products

## Air pollution monitor



A computerized air pollution monitoring and control system, developed by N. V. Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken, has been installed in the Rijnmond area between Rotterdam and the North Sea, the Netherlands Government announces. The area is densely populated and highly industrialized.

Thirty-one detector masts—called “sniffing poles” by residents—have been installed in the region. They are sensors measuring levels of sulfur dioxide, judged to be an indicator of general levels of pollution. Findings of the sensors—which also include meteorological information—are relayed electronically to a warning center computer. The computer then predicts trends basing the predictions on information from the sensors as well as on more general meteorological information. An abnormally high source of pollution can be localized within one minute. Offending industries are then notified, and plant operations are curtailed or shut down through previous voluntary agreements with air pollution control authorities.

*N. V. Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken  
Eindhoven, Netherlands*

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## Phosphate removal system

The recommendation against use of nitrilotriacetates as substitutes for phosphates in detergents makes more urgent the development of economical-

ly feasible phosphate removal techniques for sewage plants. Biospherics, Inc., announces the development of a bacterial technique the company says is effective in phosphate removal.

In the system, the bacteria ordinarily used in sewage treatment to degrade organic matter are altered to do double duty and also take up phosphates under the aerobic conditions in the usual aeration tank, the company says. Then the bacteria are cycled through an anaerobic tank in which they give up their phosphorus to water. The phosphorus can then be chemically precipitated from the phosphorus-rich water.

*Biospherics Inc.  
Rockville, Md.*

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## Ecology kits

Ecology is all the rage, and it is important that children learn about the subject not in terms of the polemics that so often dominate the subject nowadays but instead in ways that will give insight into the real life processes involved.

Urban Systems, Inc., has produced a series of five kits aimed at teaching these essentials. They are titled “Why Are Leaves Green,” “Life in the Water,” “Predator-Prey,” “What Moves Life,” and “Life from Death.” The five kits survey life processes in plants and animals in relation to the total environment, terrestrial and aquatic. Such mat-

ters as photosynthesis, food chains, recycling of biochemicals and ecological balance are covered in a fairly sophisticated manner.

*Urban Systems, Inc.  
Cambridge, Mass.*

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## Audiometer

Bausch & Lomb have announced their new Audio-Rater III, a hearing testing device which the company says incorporates many improvements over previous such devices. The audiometer provides a range of 11 frequencies from 125 hertz through 8,000 hertz, graduated in one octave stops with half octave test frequencies at 750, 1,500, 3,000 and 6,000 hertz. A noise-free circuit assures that individuals respond only to test signals and not to extraneous noise, says the company.

*Bausch & Lomb  
Rochester, N.Y.*

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