

Films of The Week

Listing 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 listed.

BEAVER COUNTRY. 16mm, color, sound, 12 min. How beavers in the Canadian north woods build a dam, defend it against their animal neighbors, and care for it after the danger has passed. Rental \$7.50 or purchase \$120 from Contemporary Films, 267 W. 25th St., New York, N.Y. 10001.

A DAY ON THE RIVER. 16mm, color, sound, 20 min. Two teen-age boys are taken on an expedition in the wilds of Northern Ontario by an old Indian guide, who shows them the ways his ancestors dealt with their rugged environment. Audience: Upper elementary and junior high. Rental \$10 or purchase \$170 from Contemporary Films, 267 W. 25th St., New York, N.Y. 10001.

FIBERSCOPE ENDOSCOPY OF THE UPPER DIGESTIVE TRACT-M-1164. 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Shows how the fiberscope is used in an endoscopic examination of the stomach and duodenal cap, and explains the principles of fiber optics. Audience: physicians, interns, medical students. Purchase from DuArt Film Laboratories, 245 West 55th St., New York, N.Y. 10019, or free loan from Public Health Service Audiovisual Facility, Atlanta, Ga. 30333.

The following films were produced by Prism Productions, 220 E. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010. They may be purchased from Prism Productions at the prices given below. Study guides are available for all films.

THE BOTTLED CANDLE MYSTERY. 16mm, color, sound, 5 min. The well-known experiment in which water rises in a bottle inverted over a burning candle is performed and students are challenged to explain what happens. Audience: Middle grades, junior high. Purchase \$70.

COMMON COLLOIDS. 16mm, color, sound, 7 min. A solution, mixture and colloid are prepared and defined, and everyday materials are combined to illustrate the eight possible combinations that produce colloidal suspensions. Audience: Junior and senior high. Purchase \$85.

THE GHOST. 16mm, color, sound, 8 min. Tracks in the sand that lead to a hole are shown and students are challenged to identify the "ghost." After more clues are given, the film reveals the animal as ghost crab, and its hunting, digging and feeding activities explain the clues seen at the beginning. Audience: Middle grades, junior high. Purchase \$95.

INSIDE A LASER. 16mm, color, sound, 10 min. A specially constructed "pinball machine" demonstrates how spontaneous emission of radiation occurs inside the atom, how continuous stimulated emission occurs in a ruby laser, and why laser light has such unusual properties. Audience: Junior and senior high. Purchase \$115.

THE MOUSE-ACTIVATED CANDLE LIGHTER. 16mm color, sound, 5 min. The action of an amusing "Rube Goldberg" candle lighter made from a mouse trap, fish pole, alarm clock, ice pick, train motor, rubber band and candle provides 19 illustrations of potential energy and 30 of kinetic energy. Audience: Middle grades, junior high. Purchase \$70.

THE MYSTERY OF PLANT MOVEMENT. 16mm, b&w, sound, 10½ min. A four-month time-lapse record of the growth of a seed into a 14-foot vine emphasizes the movement of various parts of the plant. Clues to its identity are given at intervals, and it is finally revealed as a pumpkin. Audience: Middle grades, junior and senior high. Purchase: \$65.

SECRET IN THE WHITE CELL. 16mm, b&w, sound, 11 min. Motion pictures made through a phase-contrast microscope show how Dr. James Hirsch of Rockefeller University discovered the process by which white cells (polymorphonuclear leucocytes) kill microbes in the body. Audience: Junior and senior high. Purchase \$65.

SNAKE HUNT. 16mm, color, sound 10 min. Students follow snake hunters from the Lincoln Park Zoo as they capture snakes alive in a variety of environments in Florida. Emphasis is on the many species of snakes found in a relatively small area which provides a variety of living conditions. Audience: Middle grades, junior high. Purchase: \$115.

Nature Note



Fremont Davis

Indian Pipe

Gleaming with an eerie translucent whiteness in the dim twilight of northern forests, the Indian pipe is one of nature's most fascinating plants.

The ghostly white plants, which cannot be picked or even handled without turning black, are members of the Wintergreen family and can be found throughout the United States and Canada. Lacking the green chlorophyll that most other plants use to manufacture their food, Indian pipes derive their minerals and water directly from the living cells of a fungus. Botanists are finding that this fungus is so closely wrapped around the root system of the Indian pipe that no part of the root comes in contact with the soil. This makes the plant either a parasite, deriving its nourishment from a living organism, or a symbiotic plant, which gives as well as receives essentials of life from another plant. By no means is it called a saprophyte, as people used to think, since it does not derive its nutrition from the dead or dying organisms of leaves.

The white succulent plant, *Monotropa uniflora*, grows from a mat of entangled fibrous rootlets that exist under the forest ground. Several stems push up through the twigs and leaves to a height of three to nine inches, each stem terminating with an inverted white or pale salmon-pink flower, its cup turned downward toward earth. This resembles the fragile long-stemmed white clay pipes smoked by the colonists in the early 17th century. As soon as the flower is fertilized, its cup turns straight up toward the sky. The plant begins to turn brown and finally jet black as the numerous tiny seeds develop. Indian pipes also turn black quickly and permanently if picked or if exposed to sunlight.

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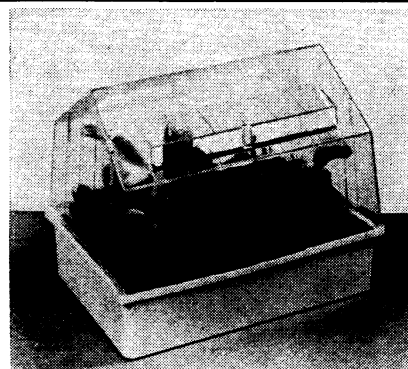
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