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amazing world of
tropic birds, animals,
insects, and plants



A Naturalist in Trinidad

By C. BROOKE WORTH
Illustrated by Don R. Eckelberry

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Dr. Worth, a former member of the Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory "writes vividly of so many things — birds, butterflies, monkeys, insects, snails, and bats — that one is treated to a rich panorama of absorbing interest. His essays abound with knowledge, wonder, a sensitivity to nature, and a sense of humor. Reading them is the very next thing to having a conducted field trip to the tropics."

— JOSEPH J. HICKEY,
University of Wisconsin

You will be fascinated by Dr. Worth's 78-foot-high bird-net experiment, his adventure with stingless, honey-producing bees, and all of his other discoveries and observations. You will be enchanted by the drawings of famed nature artist, Don R. Eckelberry, which fully capture the strange and beautiful creatures of this naturalist's paradise. But the best of the book lies in the author's infinite delight in every living thing.

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John Kieran says: "A NATURALIST IN TRINIDAD gives the reader all the thrills of a visit to the wilder parts of tropical Trinidad without the discomforts and hardships that the author had to take in stride. I was fascinated from start to finish." You will be, too.

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LETTERS

to the editor

Supervising surgery

Sir:

In your editorial (SN: 1/20 p. 57) entitled "The Doctors' Dilemma," you suggest that there should be some sort of supervision to surgical work.

In agreeing with your point of view, the writer violently objects to the proposition that a governmental agency should have the supervision.

As a former president of a hospital, every operation performed in our hospital, even emergencies, was discussed with, if possible, the entire surgical staff as well as the surgical director; and if not possible with a surgical committee, thereof, to approve or disapprove.

This procedure is not unique in our hospital, and I imagine is not unique today with most of the hospitals.

William Alkus
Cheltenham, Pa.

Orbit, not mass

Sir:

In his dropping experiments at Pisa, Galileo found that wooden balls fall to the ground just as fast as balls made of lead, apart from air-resistance. This notion, that the motion of an object under the influence of gravity is independent of the nature of the object, is a basic hypothesis in Einstein's geometrical description of gravity, the general theory of relativity.

One prediction of general relativity is that the orbits of planets and asteroids precess slowly about the sun at a rate which depends upon the geometry and period of the orbit.

This rate is not thought to be affected by the mass of the planet or asteroid, as was reported (SN: 11/18/67 p. 490), or by any of its other properties.

Kevin Cahill
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C.

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.

A TIME FOR DECISION. 16mm, color, sound, 18 min. Points out that smoking is an individual and a community health problem. With an accompanying guide, it urges physicians, clergymen, teachers, business leaders, and other opinion-makers to support community smoking education programs. Audience: opinion-makers, general. Free loan from local American Cancer Society.

ATOMIC POWER TODAY. 16mm, color, sound, 15 min. Abbreviated version of longer film titled "Atomic Power Today: Service with Safety" listed in Dec. 3, 1966. The short version is specially tailored for meetings and groups that wish only short films. Explains growing need for electricity, and how a nuclear power plant is designed and operated. Audience: general. Purchase \$50.00 from Byron Motion Pictures, 1226 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, D.C. 20007, or free loan from AEC field libraries or from Audio-Visual Branch, Division of Public Information, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545.

LINK. 16mm, color, sound, 8 min. Experimental computer approach at Argonne National Laboratory that analyzes the immense quantities of data involved in high energy physics experiments. Audience: professional. Purchase \$23.77 from Geo. W. Colburn Laboratory, 164 Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60606, or free loan from AEC field libraries or from Audio-Visual Branch, Division of Public Information, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545.

THE REMARKABLE SCHOOLHOUSE. 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Surveys the new educational systems in use in schools today, demonstrating the self-teaching and mechanical-teaching techniques that may prove to be the prototypes of the future. Audience: general. Free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036. (From CBS-TV 21st Century series.)

RAPID FROZEN SECTION TECHNIQUES—M-998. 16mm, color, sound, 5½ min. Demonstration of how specimen is identified, trimmed for sectioning, placed on microtome and frozen, cut, stained, and prepared for examination by the pathologist. Audience: hospital medical technologists (trainees). Purchase from DuArt Film Laboratories, 245 West 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10019 or free loan from National Medical Audiovisual Center, Atlanta, Ga. 30333.

UNIVERSE ON A SCRATCHPAD—HQ 164. 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. A candid study of the work of a modern day astro-physicist and his method of studying the universe; features commentary by Dr. Robert Jastrow and Dr. Patrick Thaddeus of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York. Audience: high school, adult. Free loan from NASA field libraries or information from NASA Headquarters, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20545.

VIEW OF THE SKY—HQ 163. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. An explanation through symbolic photography of the various historical theories of the universe from Copernicus through Einstein, with a brief look at present space exploration. Audience: high school, adult. Free loan from NASA field libraries or information from NASA Headquarters, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20545.

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