

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.

CERAMICS IN SPACE. 16mm, color, sound, 20 min. Shows the role of a graduate research assistant in the study of ceramic materials capable of meeting space requirements. Features Dr. James I. Mueller, University of Washington. Audience: high school, college students, parents. Free loan from NASA field libraries or from National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Headquarters, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20546.

THE HEART AND ITS WORK. 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 11 min. A simple model of the circulatory system introduces a young boy (and the viewers) to the heart and what it does. Two hollow rubber balls represent the heart and demonstrate how it pumps. Plastic tubing attached to the model heart represents the blood vessels which carry blood into all parts of the body and return it to the heart. Audience: primary. Purchase color \$130 or b&w \$65 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

HURRICANE. 16mm, color, sound, 27 min. Shows what steps must be taken by individuals to protect life and property before, during and after a hurricane. Shows how between June and November of each year, hurricanes are raised in the tropics and come spinning toward land in circles of destruction covering up to 70,000 square miles. Citizens are warned, and all alert persons then quickly obtain and store such vital supplies as canned foods, medicine, water, candles, battery-powered lamps and camping stoves. Windows are covered, and all loose property moved inside or secured. Film emphasizes for the unprepared, the result is tragedy. Audience: general. Free loan from Aetna Life and Casualty, Hartford, Conn.

IMPULSE PROPAGATION IN A NERVE FIBER. 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Gives beginning students of physiology a graphic picture of how a nerve impulse arises and is propagated in a nerve fiber. Computer-generated curve in motion makes it possible to visualize the changing states of an excitable membrane, with emphasis on the interplay between the processes of excitation and recovery. Audience: educational institutions, health and health related organizations. Purchase information from Information Officer, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, Bethesda, Md. 20014, or free loan from National Medical Audiovisual Center (Annex), Station K, Atlanta, Ga. 30324.

THE LIVING TIDE, PART I: THE ROCKY SHORE. 16mm, color, sound, 27 min. Illustrates the diversity of plant and animal life in the zoo of the rocky shore, and demonstrates a variety of types of life cycles among shallow water animals. The environmental factors of the rocky shore are carefully explained by describing the structures and functions of two of the littoral zone's best known members: the starfish and the barnacle. Audience: senior high and college. Purchase \$340 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

THE LIVING TIDE, PART II: THE BRIM OF SAND. 16mm, color, sound, 27 min. Illustrates the great diversity of form and function among creatures which inhabit the intertidal zone and explains how they have adapted to a specialized niche which is alternately flooded and dry. Audience: senior high school and college. Purchase \$340 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

THE NORMAL CHILD. 16mm, b&w, sound, 25 min. Shows a six-year-old boy interacting normally and positively with his environment. He responds to gratifications, frustrations and challenges offered in psychiatric interview situations in a realistic, flexible manner. Shows how he handles affect, his capacity for imagination and play, and his constructive use of relationship with examiner. Audience: For Restricted Use Only. Purchase \$125 or rental \$5.50 from Psychological Cinema Register, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. 16802.

RATIO: A WAY OF COMPARING. 16mm, color, sound, 9 min. Animation and sets of simple objects are used to introduce the viewer to the concept of ratio. It is shown that a ratio is a way of comparing the number of objects in one set to the number of objects in another set. Ways to name a ratio in both word and symbol are demonstrated. Two familiar uses of ratio taken from everyday life are used to conclude film. Audience: elementary. Purchase \$120 from Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

LETTERS

to the editor

Circumcision and cancer

As a scientific but non-medical observer of the circumcision-cancer controversy (SN: 3/29, p. 307, SN: 5/3, p. 420), I find it disturbing that the medical profession has neither asked nor answered the relevant question involved.

The important question to ask is where does the cancer-producing virus originate, or to be more specific, does the foreskin actually manufacture or aid in the manufacture of the virus? If the foreskin is responsible for the production of this virus then the solution is obvious and simple. But if the foreskin is not directly or indirectly responsible for its production, then the fact that the virus is found in human smegma is irrelevant to the entire discussion, since the virus would also be in the urethra, the prostate and possibly the bladder.

To stop at this point, believing that the problem has been solved, is not only bad science but could potentially prove to be a costly blunder. If the virus is of an unknown origin it would be transmitted from either male to female or female to male during sexual intercourse with a carrier (of either sex), irrespective of the state of the male organ. The entire problem may be identical to that of the more common venereal diseases such as gonorrhea and syphilis.

This concept may indicate why the Jewish population, compared to the general population, suffers at a reduced rate from cancer of the prostate, cervix and possibly even the bladder (my idea).

As Dr. Ravich (SN: 5/3, p. 420) pointed out, the Jewish population was "more or less" (How much more or less?) sexually isolated from the rest of

the population. Consequently substantial differences in the cancer rate could be due to a large number of factors; the following three are probably the most important: 1. differences in the rate of sexual promiscuity of well-defined parts of the population; 2. the prevalence or absence of the cancer-producing virus in a sexually isolated part of the population, and 3. the use of prophylactics during extramarital sexual intercourse.

This problem could be solved to everyone's satisfaction in two ways: 1. by providing unequivocal evidence that the foreskin either manufactures or is instrumental in the manufacture of the cancer-producing virus. 2. by determining the rate of the relevant cancers in married couples who have never had extramarital sexual intercourse and the man has not had his foreskin removed. If the source and transmission of the cancer-producing virus is analogous to that of the more common venereal diseases, then the rate of the relevant cancers in these couples should be as low or lower than the rate for the Jewish population.

From all the evidence available, at the present time, I would say that nothing has been proved other than the fact that a certain virus (2-Herpes) may be responsible for cancer in some of the male and female reproductive organs. Until proven otherwise, it would seem reasonable that the world's population, whether semitic or non-semitic, whether circumcised or uncircumcised, should consider this problem as if it were (and actually may be) a variety of the more common venereal diseases.

In that final analysis, it may become evident that the old-fashioned taboos about extramarital sexual intercourse may prove to be more meaningful than most of us would like to believe.

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SCIENCE NEWS

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Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$7.50; 2 yrs., \$13.50; 3 yrs., \$19.50. Special trial offer: 39 weeks, \$3.97. Single copy, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Established as Science News Letter® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation. UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

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