

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.

ELECTRICITY: CELLS AND CIRCUITS. Seven films, 8mm or Super 8mm, color, silent, each film 2-4 min. Simple use to develop related concepts: the circuit, series and parallel circuits, making a galvanometer, finding liquids that conduct electricity, and the parts of a wet cell. Audience: elementary grades. Purchase \$14 each for 8mm size or \$16 each for Super 8mm size from Systems for Education, 612 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

FLYING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA. 16mm, b&w, sound, 30 min. Description of the construction and operation of the deep sea research submarine "Alvin," documenting team work necessary to launch it, and showing its ability to maneuver underwater. Audience: general. Purchase \$125 or rental \$5.40 from NET Film Service, Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

THE HEADBANGERS—AM-1411. 16mm, b&w, sound, 30 min. Demonstrates the problem of self-destructive behavior, specifically focusing on pathological headbanging; shows one approach to the treatment of the disorder. Audience: medical students, residents in psychiatry and pediatrics, nurses, psychologists, and professional and sub-professional staffs in hospitals for mentally ill and mentally retarded children. Free loan from Public Health Service Audiovisual Facility, Chamblee, Ga. 30005, or purchase from DuArt Film Laboratories, 245 W. 55th St., New York, N. Y. 10019.

THE HISTORY OF LIVING THINGS. 16mm, color and b&w, sound, 13½ min. How fossils are formed and how we determine their ages; that mutations occur which may result in a new form of life. Audience: grades 4-6. Purchase \$150 color or \$75 b&w from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.



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FROM GENEVA

WHO Aims at Worms

The World Health Organization has launched a major campaign against ascariasis, an intestinal infection caused by the roundworm *Ascaris lumbricoides*. It afflicts almost a fifth of the world's population—an estimated 650 million persons including 3 million in the United States.

The United Nations medical agency's Expert Committee on Helminthiases, meeting in Geneva, has agreed that ascariasis is the most important pest infecting the intestines, kills many children and produces many more mental and physical dwarfs.

"Because acceptable and effective treatment with the drug piperazine is available," the panel "has singled out ascariasis from other helminthic—worm-linked—diseases as a test case," Dr. N. A. Ansari, an Iranian, chief of WHO's parasitic diseases unit, says.

"If large-scale control should prove feasible this will open the way for a WHO-led attack on the many other intestinal worm infections.

"Ascariasis has been one of the 'hidden' diseases so far, seldom diagnosed and treated, often mistaken for something else—virtually taken for granted," the WHO spokesman says. "It occurs in all parts of the world except where the year-round climate is either so cold or so hot and dry that the parasite cannot survive."

Prevalence has been found to vary widely. Surveys in North America reveal rates of less than one percent to 20 percent in some places. In Western Europe 45 percent infection has been found in some rural areas of Holland, 75 percent in one Italian town and similar levels in Eastern Europe.

The disease is of even greater significance, however, in the developing countries. Recent WHO surveys show a prevalence of infection of at least 50 percent of the total population in 12 countries of Africa, Asia and South America.

The use of human feces as fertilizer is the most common way the infection spreads.

Experts discount statistics in the countries where ascariasis is most prevalent. But they cite numerous tragic examples of the known extent. Child mortality among the aborigines in Queensland, Australia, for instance, has been up to 54 percent of all deaths in settlements. After mass treatment of children for ascariasis, deaths fell to 8 percent. *David Alan Ehrlich*

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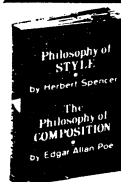
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