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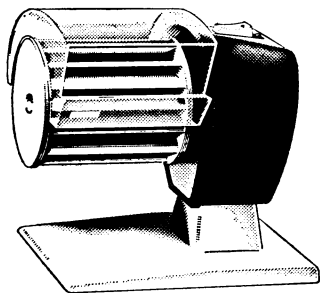
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LETTERS

to the editor

Extreme satisfaction

Sir:

I am a premed student at Queens College, and find it appropriate to express my extreme satisfaction with your publication. It constantly whets my desire for knowledge for current scientific development, and does so in a most enjoyable manner. It communicates with the layman, yet retains sophistication associated with the subject concerned. There is no mystery as to why such a diverse class of subscribers, reads and obtains much gratification from the magazine.

David A. Ruggiero
Bayside L. I.

Crystallography vs. microscopy

Sir:

Your paragraph (SN: 9/21, p. 299) suggests that I favor the X-ray crystallographic approach over the electron microscope approach. Actually, the opposite is true. There can be little gratification in having to calculate the structure of proteins, etc., when we know we have real possibilities for directly visualizing structure in the electron microscope.

D.F. Parsons, M.D., Ph.D.
Research Professor of
Biophysics
Roswell Park Memorial Institute
Buffalo, N.Y.

(The electron microscope is potentially less limiting than X-ray crystallography, but only potentially. At present the microscope, which gives information about the shape of molecules, cannot provide the detailed information about structure that crystallographic techniques can. This is because of technical problems which microscopists are working to resolve. Dr. Parsons believes the electron microscope will ultimately yield structure as well. Ed.)

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.

ANATOMY OF AN EXPLOSION. 16 mm, color, sound, 18 min. Explains in detail the technology of analyzing and testing materials to determine their fire and explosion characteristics. Use of high speed camera up to 1500 frames per second dramatically illustrates explosions and suppressions. Many types of actual installations are shown. Audience: fire protection officers, civic groups, business and industry. Free loan from Association Films, 600 Grand Ave., Ridgefield, N. J., or local field libraries of Association Films.

BIRTH OF THE RED KANGAROO. 16mm, color, sound, 21 min. Documents the development of the Australian red kangaroo from conception through the first years of life. Included are the differences between the male and female reproductivity cycles, mating behavior, female behavioral patterns during pregnancy and birth, and the newborn kangaroo's remarkable journey from the birth canal to the pouch where it remains for six months receiving nutritive milk from the mother. Audience: high school, college, general. Purchase \$225 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

THE BURN CENTER. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Discussion with head of the Burn Unit, Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, about burn injuries in general and the new techniques and materials developed and used by medical researchers to treat burns. Several patients in various stages of recovery from the effects of serious burns are shown. Audience: college, adult. Rental \$8.65 or purchase \$240 from NET Film Services, Indiana University, Audi-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

CHARACTERIZATION. 16mm, b&w kinescope, sound, 30 min. Introduces the broad field of materials characterization and explains the part which it has come to play in the control of existing materials and the development of new ones. Demonstrates one of the major tools: the scanning electron microscope. Also describes how computers simplify the characterization of multiphase powder mixtures by x-ray diffraction, and the recently developed laser ultramicroscope. Audience: scientists and engineers. Purchase \$100 or rental \$6.10 from Audio Visual Services, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. 16802. (Inquire for price of videotape version.)

CHROMOPHOBIA. 16mm, color, sound 11 min. Animated film shows the attempt of a completely standardized army to impose its dictatorial rule on a free society. With words, it tells the tale of suppression, fear, and the ultimate victory of the free spirit. Audience: general. Purchase \$135 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

PLANTS LIVE THROUGH THE WINTER. 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 11 min. In fall, many trees are leafless and many smaller plants seem dead. Yet some plants are alive—not just evergreens, but plants with living stems above the ground or below it. Film defines perennials, biennials and annuals, and shows what happens to each kind in winter, so that in spring they may renew themselves. Audience: primary, intermediate. Purchase color \$120 or b&w \$60 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water Street, Chicago, Ill. 60601.

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