

# How it works

**H**ow is color television transmitted? (See page 166 of THE WAY THINGS WORK.) How is electronic data processing done? (See page 302). How does a helicopter fly? (See page 560.) How does "dry cleaning" clean? (See page 407.) Why does a record player play? (See page 314.) How does the simple switch operate? (See page 96.) Why do vending machines reject counterfeit coins? (See page 324.) What happens at the telephone exchange? (See page 112.) How does a Polaroid camera produce pictures? (See page 172.) What makes gunpowder explode? (See page 448.) What does a nuclear reactor do? (See page 54.) What happens in "supersonic speed"? (See page 556.)

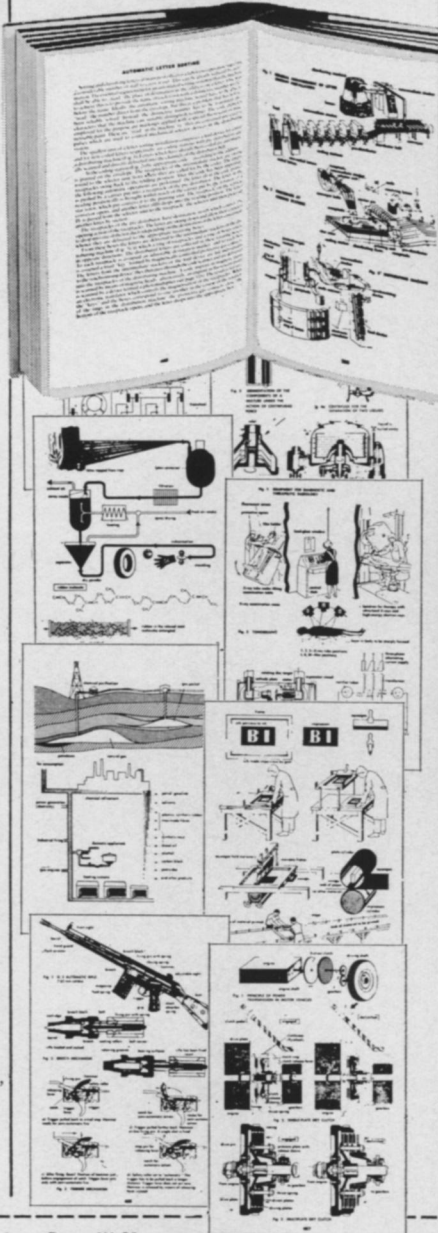
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## LETTERS

# to the editor

### Syphilis epidemic

Sir:

May I compliment you on your prompt and accurate reporting on the syphilis epidemic in rural Mississippi (SN: 10/12, p. 362).

The venereal diseases, especially syphilis and gonorrhea, do constitute a threat to the health of our nation that too few recognize, or are willing to admit.

Certainly, one of the most exciting, yet unnoticed and unrewarded stories of contemporary public health is the relentless battle being carried on by a dedicated corps of fewer than 1,000 local, state and Federal venereal disease control workers.

*William J. Brown, M.D.  
Chief, Venereal Disease Program  
Communicable Disease Center  
Atlanta, Ga.*

### 20 billion humans

Sir:

Those who do not accept the conclusions drawn by Pope Paul in his encyclical Human Life fail to take into consideration the circumstances upon which are based the Church's doctrine on birth control, as expressed by the Roman pontiff.

For example, these dissenters do not seem to know that relative to the number of people and their needs there is really more than enough food, fiber, and fuel, and the practice of artificial birth regulation would be disastrous.

Admittedly, millions are starving. This unquestionably deplorable truth is caused by many simple facts and intricate situations. Overpopulation, however, is definitely not one of those causes, popular writers' opinions notwithstanding. On the contrary, more people would create a healthier world economy.

One of the basic reasons why many are not getting enough food and other necessities is the irrational distribution of both necessities and people.

Millions of farmers over the globe are penalized both by their governments and by an absurd economic system whenever they produce more than a predetermined amount. As a matter of fact, members of the European Common Market in compliance with the accepted rules have deliberately destroyed millions of tons of wholesome food. Meanwhile poor human beings elsewhere were starving.

This shows that there's an abun-