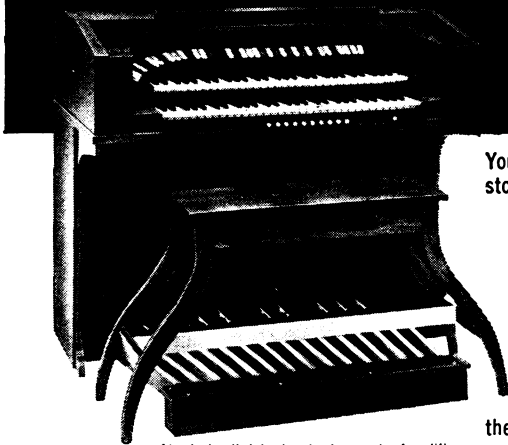


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(Letters from p. 4)

occurs something akin to permanently-maintained polarization on an atomic scale. What, then, would be the meaning of a red shift? We should not expect that matter should behave in other environments in the fashions which are familiar to us in our limited view. In fact, the conditions which we know directly may actually represent one of the more extreme conditions existing in the universe.

It is encouraging to see, at last, the beginning of developments which may lead to reassessment of constructions based on the so-called red shift and ultimately, as one hopes, to a clearer understanding of the physical universe.

Vere Maffet  
Technical Director  
Peerless Photo Products, Inc.  
Shoreham, N.Y.

### Population

From what I have read over the past several years I feel that the Rev. Guy J. Cyr is correct in his contention in his letter in the Nov. 9th issue that presently available technic, properly applied, would permit a world population of 20 billion people, but I wish he had given some answer to the question of which comes first, the babies or the applied technology? The tone of his letter seems to indicate a belief that if we make it babies first, the technology will follow, but lagging well behind, which would be rough on a lot of people for a long time. On this last point, Rev. Cyr might do well to look over the lead article in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN for November. He might find helpful also the book "The Next Ninety Years" by Prof. Harrison Brown and other Caltech faculty members, concerning the matter of getting the technology started in countries that do not have it.

Paul Estle  
Cohoe, Alaska

### Draft women

I strongly agree with Betty Friedan (SN: 11/23, p. 516) that we must have equality for women and an end to sexual discrimination. There is a great personal and social loss involved in the waste of their talent through a lack of opportunity for implementation.

But it must be recognized that inherent in an end to sexually based discrimination is the end of bias in the demands placed upon males, the foremost of these being military conscription. If equality of opportunity is to be given women, then either they must be willing to accept the same military requirements as men, or these requirements must be dropped for men as well.

John H. Munz  
Urbana, Ill.

