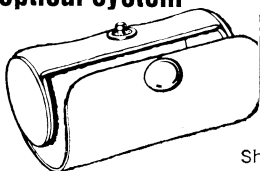


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## films OF THE WEEK

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.

**INERTIAL MASS AND THE LAWS OF MOTION.** 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 13½ min. Presents an operational definition of inertial mass based on interaction between two or more bodies. Beginning with boxcars in a railroad switching yard, it moves into a hypothetical situation in intergalactic space to show how boxcars, uninfluenced by external gravitational forces, would accelerate toward each other. This situation forms the basis for an operational definition which, when applied to model boxcars on an air track simulating gravity-free conditions, leads to two of Newton's laws of motion. Audience: senior high, college physics. Purchase color \$162.50 or b&w \$81.25 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

**MATTER AND ENERGY (2nd edition).** 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 13½ min. Slow-motion photography and specially constructed models help clarify the kinetic-molecular theory. Explains how this theory forms the basis for the concepts of physical science, such as elements and compounds and states of matter. Students learn how some of the more common forms of energy are related to each other and to the concept of matter. Introduces such concepts as plasma as a fourth state of matter, and "anti-matter," atoms with positive electrons and negative nuclei. Audience: junior, senior high. Purchase color \$162.50 or b&w \$81.25 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

**MEASURING IN ASTRONOMY: HOW BIG, HOW FAR.** 16mm, color, sound, 11½ min. Many distances, like the distance around the earth, are impossible to measure directly. Yet almost 2,000 years ago, a man named Eratosthenes was able to measure the size of the earth by using his knowledge of geometry. Today, surveyors use their knowledge of the properties of triangles to measure indirectly the distance between points on the earth's surface. The same method—triangulation—can also be used to find the distance to nearby objects in space. Audience: junior, senior high. Purchase \$135 from Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, Cal. 90025.

**THE MICROSCOPIC PLANTS.** 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Explains the nature of different modes of life of microscopic algae in fresh water and in the sea. Also explains the importance of microscopic algae in the process of harnessing the sun's energy for use by all of the earth's living things. Examples shown include: Euglena, Pernaema, Pandorina, Volvox, Pediatrum, and Spyrogira. Audience: Senior high, college. Purchase \$375 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036. (Part of Living Biology Series produced by Yeshiva University.)

**PERSONAL ADJUSTMENT TRAINING IN A SHELTERED WORKSHOP.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. The theories, practices and techniques used by sheltered workshops in providing therapy for troubled and handicapped people are shown in science with trainees active in such a workshop. A portion is devoted to the case study of one girl finding adjustment through training and a renewed social outlook. The workshop is seen as an outlet for many agencies to aid such persons—a place where doctors, nurses, psychologists and social workers are present to help. Audience: general. Purchase \$50 or rental \$7.25 from Field Services, Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

## LETTERS

# to the editor

### Cancer statistics

I have just read with interest your news item, "Chemists and Cancer" (SN: 3/8, p. 234). It appears, from the context that the initial paragraph may be editorial comment. I am especially concerned with the first part of the first sentence of the first paragraph: "X-ray technicians have a higher incidence of death from cancer than other occupational groups;" . . . Is this statement editorial comment or was it part of Dr. Li's findings?

If the statement is true (and that means true now), I would like to know the reference. If the statement was true 20 years ago, then that should be made clear to the readers. I suspect that it was true 20 years ago, but I do not know of any valid study which supports this. Such an incidence has been shown true of American radiologists 20 years ago. It is not true of American radiologists today.

I would certainly appreciate some information on the source of the statement.

John W. Schaefflein  
Hacienda Heights, Calif.

(The documentation for the statement does go back seven years, to a study by the Physicians Radiation Registry, published in the journal of the American Journal of Roentgenology for February 1962. According to the Society for Environmental Information in St. Louis, it is still true. Ed.)

### Difficult but feasible

The short article "Plastics from Polutants" (SN: 3/29, p. 308), does not explain the reasoning behind the title. If the carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide are not derived from the waste of some process, they cannot be con-

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