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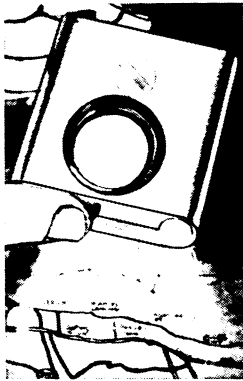
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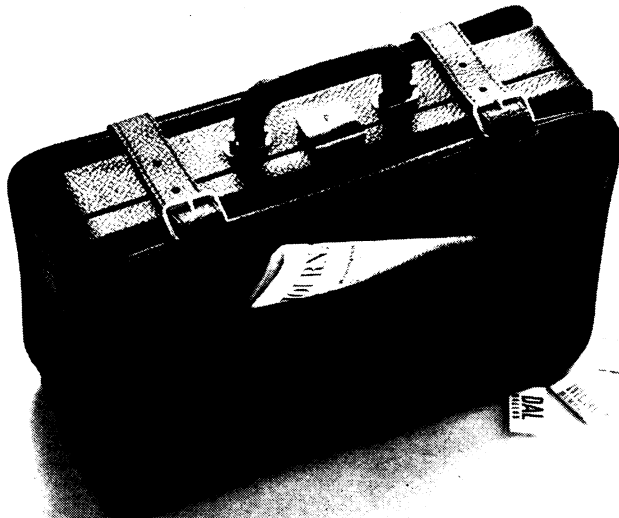
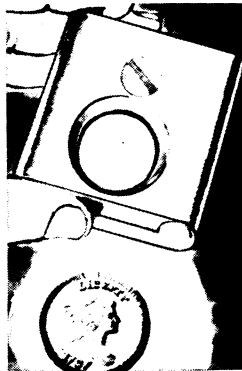


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Letters from p. 445

children's I.Q. scores were raised dramatically when their teacher's believed certain children were capable of better work, having been told by Rosenthal that these randomly selected students were "intellectual bloomers." (This is reported in "Pygmalion in the Classroom.")

The important point then is that some failures in applying social science knowledge may not be due to the inaccuracy of that knowledge but rather to its misapplication or misemphasis. Or, as Rosenthal's research illustrates by counterexample, a failure to believe that conditions can be changed by environmental alteration may be a self-fulfilling prophecy which inhibits possible improvements. Thus we find a return to a pessimistic and "dismal" science based on explanations using "unchanging" variables such as "needs," "heredity," and "genetic endowments." Hopefully this pessimism will prove to be temporary.

Richard P. Devine
Department of Sociology
Saint John's University
Collegeville, Minn.

Identical bills

The article entitled "Implementing the NSB Proposals" (SN: 3/29, p. 306) may foster a misunderstanding.

The article suggests that the Harris bill in the Senate "may sidestep objections to the Miller bill." In fact, the Harris proposal is identical with the Miller bill which was introduced at the beginning of this year.

Emilio Q. Daddario
Chairman, Subcommittee on Science,
Research and Development
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Appreciated

I particularly appreciate your fine material concerning human behavior, social trends and ecology.

Water, air and soil pollution are going to render our great technology meaningless unless man swiftly decides to spend his billions on life instead of endless military death.

However, your journal has a good balance, considering the vast scope needing coverage.

W. F. Hadel, Instructor
The Bible Study Chapel
Mountain Home, Ark.

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