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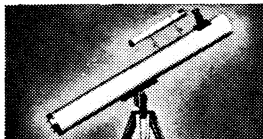
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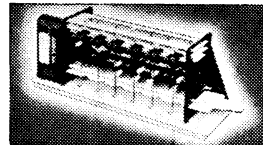
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Letters from p. 545

and magazines and the lay press in general.

Physicians, osteopaths and dentists know its importance, yet very few indeed bequeath their bodies to such a worthy and necessary cause.

Bodies willed to medical schools will be useful not only in the teaching of basic anatomy but also in anatomic research and in the acquisition of greater surgical skill and proficiency in the delicate surgery of the heart, brain, eye and inner ear. For this reason, a greater effort should be made to enlighten intelligent and progressive people about the willing of their remains to medical schools.

There is no greater service rendered to the living and no greater respect and glory to the dead than bequeathing their bodies to science. To say the least, to be buried is antiquated, dull, depressing to bystanders and relatives and dreadful to children. Besides, it is humiliating to the memory of the deceased. What about cremation? Would it not be better to will bodies to science first and then be cremated? The authorities of medical schools will gladly honor such requests. A body cremated is of no benefit to anyone, a total waste, unless through study and investigation it has given knowledge and experience to those who teach from it prior to cremation.

Finally, what can be more eloquent and true than the following highlight in a recent editorial in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: "Nothing can replace the human body in the teaching of anatomy. And no discipline is more fundamental to the education of a physician." And further, "It is important to note that spokesmen for the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths have indicated approval of the principle of donation of one's body for the promotion of anatomic science."

Joseph W. Miller, M.D.
Miami, Fla.

Special laser

In my opinion, the article "Movies by hologram," (SN: 5/10, p. 460), misses the most important point. The most crucial part of the holographic movie system, which made the experiment possible, is not even mentioned in the article—namely the continuously pumped repetitively Q-switched ruby laser developed at Hughes. As far as we know, there is no other laser available at this time which is suitable for making holographic movies.

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