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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.

MONSTERS OF THE OCEAN DEEP. 16mm, color, sound, 21 min. Legends of sea monsters abound in history. This film illustrates the findings of scientific research regarding several of the so-called sea monsters, including sharks, sting-rays, the barracuda, the giant squid, moray eel and octopus. Sequences show packs of young barracuda roving the ocean, and a dramatic battle between a moray eel and an octopus. Audience: high school. Purchase \$315 or rental \$25 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N. Y. 10036. (Produced by ABC-TV News.)

LEARNING ABOUT LEAVES. 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 11 min. Time-lapse photography shows the changes which take place in selected plant and tree leaves from early spring to late fall. The film clearly illustrates that leaves on the same kind of plant are alike, while leaves on different plants may vary in size, shape, kinds of edges and veins. Visualizes simple and compound leaves and patterns of leaf growth. Pupils also learn how to make their own leaf book. Audience: elementary. Purchase color \$130 or b&w \$65 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

ONCHOCERIASIS IN GHANA—M-1543-X. 16mm, color, sound, 31 min. Emphasizes the entomological and parasitological aspects of the African vector of onchocerciasis. Most of the scenes and diseased persons were photographed in Ghana, where the disease is especially prevalent. Explains the life cycle of the vector blackfly; traces development of the parasite within the fly and human host; and demonstrates diagnosis and presents control aspects. Audience: medical and zoology students, physicians, nurses, health workers and general public in countries where the disease occurs. Purchase information from DuArt Film Laboratories, 245 W. 55th St., New York, N. Y. 10019, or free loan from National Medical Audio-visual Center (Annex), Station K, Atlanta, Ga. 30324.

PATTERNS FOR SURVIVAL: A STUDY OF MIMICRY AND PROTECTIVE COLORATION IN TROPICAL INSECTS. 16mm, color, sound, 26½ min. A distillation of nine summers' investigations in the natural environments of Florida and Trinidad, the film provides an overall view of protective coloration in insects, and interprets how the various adaptations have evolved in the context of predators' feeding behavior. Includes examples of cryptical coloration, warning coloration, Batesian mimicry, Mullerian mimicry and the confusion syndrome. Audience: college, high school. Version A has musical background, narration and sound effects. Version B has narration and sound effects only. Purchase price for either version is \$260 from L. P. Brower, Department of Biology, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass. 01002.

PROBABILITY: AN INTRODUCTION. 16mm, color, sound, 7 min. Film seeks to develop a student's awareness of some of the fundamental principles of probability. A disk, a lettered cube, a set of numbered cards and several everyday situations are used to show how a certain outcome may be predicted. The film also demonstrates how the verbal description of a probability may be written as a simple equation. Audience: elementary, junior high. Purchase \$100 from Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

LETTERS

to the editor

Kudos

I thought you did a very commendable job of accurately reporting the substance of the scientific results of the "Frontiers of Science" meetings at the AGU (SN: 5/10, p. 454). It is particularly pleasing to me to see an interesting, informative and accurate account of scientific results appear in the non-technical literature.

Arthur E. Maxwell
Director of Research

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, Mass.

Units needed

Your magazine is of great interest to me because I endeavor to keep up to some extent with the progress of science, though I am far from that field nowadays. However, there are two things that puzzle me, and I am wondering if I can trouble you for a brief explanation.

1. Occasionally I see a mention of a certain number of degrees "Kelvin." What is the relationship of that scale to Centigrade?

2. Once or twice I have seen a mention of a "gigahertz." What is the relation of a gigahertz to the Metric system?

J. M. Reynolds
Blairtown, N.J.

(One degree Kelvin is the same size as one degree Centigrade, but the Kelvin scale starts at absolute zero instead of the freezing point of water. So zero degrees K. equals minus 273.16 degrees C. One hertz is a unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, and "giga" is a prefix meaning one-billion times whatever it precedes; one gigahertz is therefore one billion (10⁹) cycles per second. Ed.)

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