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Originally invented to prove that light exerts pressure, the radiometer confounded scientists by turning in the wrong direction! According to theory, the white vane faces were supposed to retreat from the light because of their greater reflectivity, but instead, the black faces move away from the light. We now know why: air molecules remaining in the evacuated globe rebound from the warmed black faces with more energy than from the cooler white faces and the reaction causes the radiometer to turn. Now you can have, at nominal cost, a precision made radiometer. It makes a striking desk ornament and conversation piece. Perhaps it will inspire you to design a practical solar engine that works on the same principle. Amazingly sensitive, a glowing cigarette makes it turn!

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8-24

PSYCHIATRY

### Open Door Helps Mental Patients to Get Well

► **THROWING OPEN** the doors and taking off the window bars of a mental hospital has had a healing effect on the minds of the patients, Dr. Herman B. Snow, director of St. Lawrence State Hospital, Ogdensburg, N. Y., told the American Psychiatric Association meeting in San Francisco.

It is not a panacea, explained Dr. Snow, but it does reinforce all other types of treatment—psychotherapy, occupational and recreational therapy, electric shock, tranquilizing drugs and any other.

The "open door" is considered an important factor in the increase of the release rate, especially of patients hospitalized for more than five years or even up to 30 years.

Doors were first opened at St. Lawrence after 1955. Now, 95% of the resident patients are in open door ward areas. Ward doors were unlocked regardless of the type of patients and with little or no selection. The doors are unlocked for at least eight hours during the day and the patient is permitted to leave at will. Many wards stay open as long as 12 hours a day and are locked only at night as private homes are.

With the doors wide open, there have been no real problems of escapes, homicides, suicides, sex or alcohol, and there have been no legal difficulties.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

GENERAL SCIENCE

### Midwest Universities Join At Argonne Laboratory

► **TWENTY-SIX EDUCATIONAL** and research institutions have organized the Associated Midwest Universities to facilitate the use of Argonne National Laboratory and promote research in all branches of science. Dr. James H. Jensen, Iowa State College provost, is the first president.

Science News Letter, May 31, 1958

## Questions

**ASTRONAUTICS**—How long has the weightlessness scientists expect man will encounter in space travel been duplicated on earth? p. 338.

**ASTRONOMY**—When does the moon appear to be greenest? p. 343.

**ENTOMOLOGY**—What two insecticides have been used to curb the fire ant invasion? p. 341.

**MEDICINE**—What compound is injected into a patient's vein to test for diabetes? p. 344.

Photographs: Cover, British Information Services; p. 339, Yale University; p. 343, The American Museum of Natural History; p. 346, World Health Organization; p. 352, Moon Manufacturing Co.

