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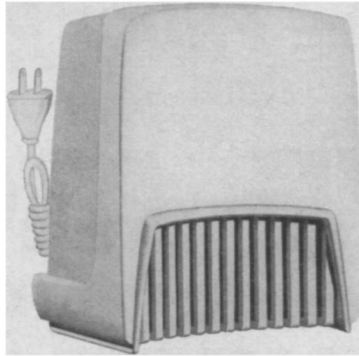
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### PHYSIOLOGY

## Pinpoint Calcium as Link In Muscle Contraction

➤ **CALCIUM** apparently acts as an essential link between the electrical and mechanical steps in muscle contraction.

By soaking frog skeletal muscle in calcium-free solutions, contraction was "consistently inhibited," Dr. George B. Frank of the University of Manitoba's department of pharmacology and therapeutics says. If the soaking continued as long as 12 minutes, he reports in *Nature* (Dec. 27), muscle contraction induced by potassium ions was always completely eliminated.

These results support the theory that electrical events such as depolarization at the surface of heart and skeletal muscle fibers permit or promote the entrance of calcium which then initiates the muscle contraction.

Science News Letter, January 17, 1959

## Questions

**ASTRONOMY**—What is the diameter of the smallest asteroids observable? p. 41.

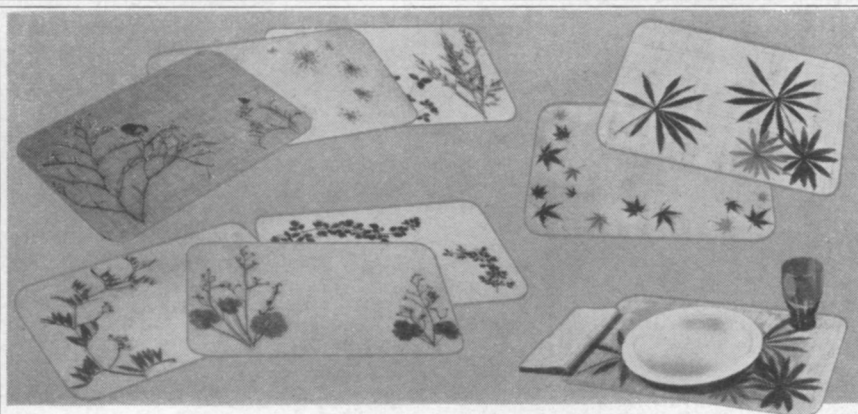
**BIOLOGY**—What is the "red tide"? p. 40.

**GEOPHYSICS**—What are the thickest and thinnest earth crusts yet measured beneath the seas? p. 36.

**METEOROLOGY**—How far in advance have experimental weather predictions been made? p. 35.

**METROLOGY**—How does the new international inch compare with the presently used one? p. 41.

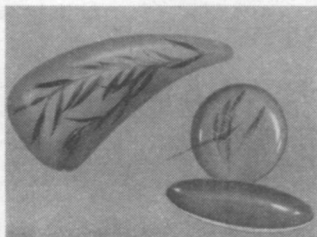
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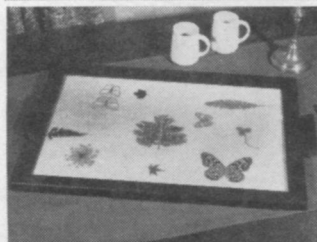
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Here is another one of Nancy Hutchings' enchanting screen designs. These were featured in the October 18, 1958 issue of Science News Letter.



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