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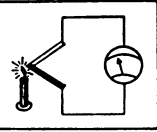
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PHYSIOLOGY

Cat's Brain Cells Respond When Cat Pays Attention

FOUR SCIENTISTS at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research have discovered certain cells in a cat's brain that respond to noise only if the cat is "paying attention" to the source of the sound.

The cells were found in the auditory cortices of the brains of seven unrestrained and unanesthetized cats.

David H. Hubel, Calvin O. Henson, Allen Rupert and Robert Galambos report in *Science* (May 8) that it was not easy to understand why a cat's brain should contain such cells.

It is thought the cells may become activated only when certain other conditions occur simultaneously.

From experimental data attained, the scientists conclude that the neural processes responsible for attention play an important role in determining whether or not a given acoustic stimulus proves adequate.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1959

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photogrammetric Printer Speeds Photography

A PRINTER for making aerial photographs allows a plane to photograph a wider area with fewer passes over the "target."

Now a plane can take five simultaneous pictures in a single pass—to the front, rear, right and left at oblique angles, as well as directly downward.

The new photogrammetric printer corrects the negative projections so that all five photographs look as though they had been taken straight down.

Corrected photographs have extreme sharpness of detail. The printer is claimed to have a "higher degree of resolution and illumination uniformity" than any similar instrument. It should speed up aerial mapping tasks and reduce their cost.

Four of the printers have already been ordered by the U. S. Department of Interior Geological Survey for aerial mapping use. They were developed by J. W. Fecker, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1959

Questions

BACTERIOLOGY—What new development has been achieved in the study of leprosy? p. 328.

ENGINEERING—What are some of the characteristics of the fabric that a nuclear-powered blimp would be made of? p. 322.

PHYSICS—What is a possible future use for electric shock tubes? p. 323.

Photographs: Cover and pp. 324, 325, 326, Science Service; p. 323, Avco-Everett Research Laboratory; p. 336, Eastman Chemical Products.