

Nature Note

Shooting Star

➤ WITH ITS five petals delicately curved backward and its pollen-bearing stamens pointed forward in a cone, the shooting star grows along river banks, meadows and open woods from April until June, and is occasionally cultivated in gardens.

At the base of its stem, its leaves form a rosette of green, which is frequently marked with red.

The nodding flower is borne on a stalk from six to 20 inches high.

A member of the primrose family, the shooting star has a genus name that comes from the Greek meaning "twelve gods." *Dodecatheon meadia* bears flowers of lilac to pale pink and sometimes white. Its stamens are thin and golden yellow, thickening at the base where they are marked with magenta.

Bees spread pollen of the stamens from flower to flower. This is called cross-fertilization, the process by which seeds and future plants are produced.

Looking as if it had been gently turned inside-out, this flower grows throughout an area that extends from the District of Columbia and western Pennsylvania to Wisconsin, and south to Georgia and Texas.

• Science News Letter, 87:253 April 17, 1965

TRAINING METHODS FOR OLDER WORKERS
—R. M. Belbin—OECD (McGraw-Hill OECD-Unit), 72 p., illus., paper, \$2. This international study presents current scientific knowledge on adult learning capacity, experiences in training older workers and methods of training.

TRANSFORMING AND USING SPACE-RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE (Ten Diversified Views): NASA-UCLA Symposium and Workshop, 1964—Richard H. Brenneman and others—NASA (GPO), 110 p., illus., paper, 70¢. Discusses such subjects as bonding and welding of dissimilar metals, and glass-fiber reinforced plastic structures.

THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION: A Century of Service—Harry Kursh—Chilton Bks., 192 p., \$4.95. Tells how and why the Office of Education was created, what it does today, and how it does it.

WATERFOWL TOMORROW—Joseph P. Linduska, Ed.—Fish & Wildlife Serv., USDA (GPO), 770 p., photographs, illus., maps, \$4. A book about the needs of the 48 species of ducks, geese and swans that live on the North American Continent, about the lands and waters that sustain these wildfowl in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

WEATHER—Philip D. Thompson, Robert O'Brien and the Editors of LIFE—Time Inc. Bks., 200 p., illus., \$3.95 direct to publisher, Time & Life Bldg., Chicago 11, Ill. Presents the scientific knowledge we have acquired about the earth's atmosphere and weather, graphically, colorfully and readably.

WEATHER ELEMENTS: A Text in Elementary Meteorology—Thomas A. Blair and Robert C. Fite—Prentice-Hall, 5th ed., 864 p., illus., \$10.60. Updated standard work includes data from satellite and IGY investigations.

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ASTRONOMY

One in 413 Meteors Has Asteroid Origin

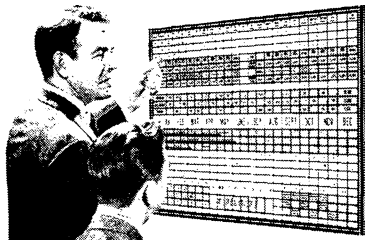
➤ ONLY ONE in the more than 400 meteors detected and carefully analyzed from photographs taken by Super-Schmidt cameras could have come from an asteroid.

The other 412 result from the debris continually spilled into space by comets.

Virtually all meteors have the same composition, Drs. Luigi Jacchia, Franco F. Verniani and Robert E. Briggs of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., reported to the American Astronomical Society, meeting at the University of Kentucky. A meteor of zero visual magnitude and a velocity of 40 kilometers per second entering earth's atmosphere at an angle of 45 degrees from the horizon has a mass of 0.69 grams, the scientists found.

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OCEANOGRAPHY

Undersea Laboratory Built by Russians

➤ FOUR SOVIET RESEARCHERS will study the sea from their underwater laboratory, set about 45 feet off the shores of the Crimea. The house was described in *Izvestiya*, Jan. 28, 1965, a Moscow publication, translated by the Joint Publications Research Service, part of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

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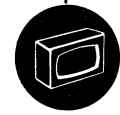
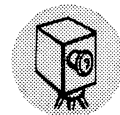
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