an airborne infrared detector is capable of providing an almost synoptic oceanographic chart of surface thermal gradients over a much greater area and in a shorter time than can be obtained using surface vessels.

HENRY STOMMEL
W. S. VON ARX
D. PARSON
W. S. RICHARDSON

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

References

1. FUGLISTER, F. C., and WORTHINGTON, V. *Tellus*, **3**, 1 (1951).
2. GOLAY, M. J. E. *Rev. Sci. Instruments*, **18**, 357 (1947).
3. KIELHORN, M. V. Unpublished manuscript (1950).
4. ISELIN, C. O'D., and FUGLISTER, F. C. *J. Market Research*, **7**, 317 (1948).

Terminology of Pigment Cells

At a conference[1] on the Biology of the Normal and Atypical Pigment Cell we presented our suggestions for the revision of the terminology of pigment cells. The need for this revision has become apparent with the increasing activity in melanin research being carried out by the many investigators in diverse fields.

Investigators in biology and medicine at the present time are using different terms for the same cell. For example, the term melanophore which has long been used by biologists refers to certain dentritic-shaped cells in the skin of fish, amphibians and reptiles which have "contractile" properties. The melanin contained in the melanophores may, in response to certain stimuli, disperse into the dendrites or concentrate in the perikaryon, thus accounting for the color change. In human cytology and pathology the term melanophore is a macrophage. Similarly, the term melanoblast is used by medical investigators for the mature cell elaborating melanin, whereas in biology the term melanoblast refers to an immature pigment cell during its migration from the neural crest. The confusion of terminology is apparent when the terms used by biologists and medical investigators are compared as in Table 1.

TABLE 1

PRESENT TERMINOLOGY OF PIGMENT CELLS

	Biology	Medicine
Mature melanin-forming cell	Melanophore*	Melanoblast†
Immature melanin-forming cell	Melanoblast	No term
Cell with phagocytized melanin	Macrophage	Melanophore
"Contractile" cell	Melanophore	Melanophore

* Melanophore, melanin-bearing cell (*melas* Gr. black; *phore* Gr. to bear).

† Melanoblast, immature melanin cell (*melas* Gr. black; *blast* Gr. germ).

[1] Third Conference on the Biology of the Normal and Atypical Pigment Cell, held in New York, November 1951.

It is noted from the actual translation of the words melanophore and melanoblast that in their present usage these terms do not connote the meaning desired. The term melanoblast for the *mature* pigment-forming cell as originally suggested by Bloch is objectionable because in the modern cytological sense the suffix *blast* is applied to immature cells which differentiate into mature cells (for example, erythroblast, lymphoblast, and leukoblast).

The terms listed in Table 2 represent the consensus of opinion of investigators[2] in melanin research in the United States and Europe.

TABLE 2

RECOMMENDED TERMINOLOGY OF PIGMENT CELLS

Mature melanin-forming cell	Melanocyte
Immature melanin-forming cell	Melanoblast
Cell with phagocytized melanin	Macrophage (or melanophage)
"Contractile" cell	Melanophore

This nomenclature of pigment cells has been adopted by the National Research Council, Committee on Pathology, Subcommittee on Onocology, and is used by contributors to the book *Pigment Cell Growth*, edited by Myron Gordon, Academic Press, New York.

THOMAS B. FITZPATRICK
AARON BUNSEN LERNER

Department of Dermatology
University of Oregon Medical School Hospitals and Clinics, Portland

[2] The following were consulted either personally or by letter: Arthur C. Allen, S. W. Becker, Sr., S. W. Becker, Jr., H. S. Bennett, R. E. Billingham, Helen O. Curth, A. J. Dalton, H. Eastlick, Edward A. Edwards, Peter Flesch, Benson Ginsburg, Myron Gordon, Marie L. Hesselbach, H. Z. Lund, H. S. Mason, P. B. Medawar, Hamilton Montgomery, George Pack, Mary E. Rawles, G. P. DuShane, E. F. Traub, I. P. Trinkaus, Fred Weidman, Helen Wilder, George B. Wislocki.

Miseducation of the Public in Scientific Matters

Today miseducation of the public in scientific matters has become a multi-million dollar industry. As a consequence, all the means of mass communication are being turned upon the public to flood it with "scientific facts" about chlorophyll, about cigarettes, about new drugs, about food, about one's body—indeed, "scientific facts" about almost everything vital to one's very existence.

Unfortunately many of these scientific facts are insidiously concocted by slick advertising copywriters. More are ground out by authors of uncritical, sensationalized magazine articles. Still others are eagerly conveyed by warm, friendly voices on radio and television. Some are invented by novelists and playwrights purely as literary devices. And finally there are the scientific facts poured out by faddists, cultists, pseudoscientists, and skillfully camouflaged quacks—who sometimes become authors of best sellers.

In 1947 W. Wendell Rázim launched a one-man