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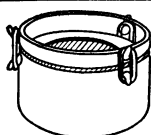
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sults are open to some criticism. Thieme has himself attacked the techniques used but does not seem to make due allowance for technical error in estimating the accuracy of his own results. There is much to question in the methods he describes; for instance, I have discussed elsewhere the inadvisability of using AB serum as a diluent in inhibition tests on bone, and in my own laboratory have found that results obtained with this method are never clear or reliable. Perhaps it is permissible to suggest, also, that percentages based on a series of eight A's, three B's, one AB, and seven O's cannot be used to finalize an argument. Thieme's paper is a significant contribution to the subject, but it would be disappointing if, at a stage in research when all workers are agreed as to the technical inadequacies, further study should be abandoned and a pessimistic attitude taken on such scanty evidence.

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Not Cooking with Gas

After reading in your editorial [*Science* 132, 113 (15 July 1960)] that it is impossible to cook potatoes by boiling at 11,000 feet, "even boiling overnight," I drove up to Climax, Colorado, a town of about 2500 which flourishes at 11,320 feet altitude. There I made a door-to-door survey, asking housewives how long it takes to boil potatoes in Climax. All of them said the same: 1 hour; with a pressure sauce pan, 10 minutes.

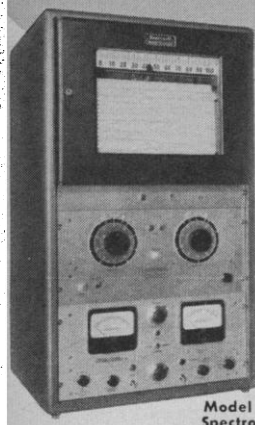
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This was Darwin's statement, not ours [see A Naturalist's Voyage in the Beagle, Publ. 104 (Everyman's Library, reprinted 1930, Dent, London; Dutton, New York), pp. 310-311]. Darwin's relevant comments are that the elevation "was probably not under 11,000 feet, and the vegetation in consequence exceedingly scanty. The root of a small scrubby plant served as fuel, but it made a miserable fire, and the wind was piercingly cold . . . the potatoes, after remaining some hours in the boiling water were nearly as hard as ever. The pot was left on the fire all night, and the next morning it was boiled, but yet the potatoes were not cooked." These conditions are far from comparable to those obtaining in modern kitchens in Climax, Colorado, but at any rate, Darwin was right in principle.—Ed.

SCIENCE, VOL. 132

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