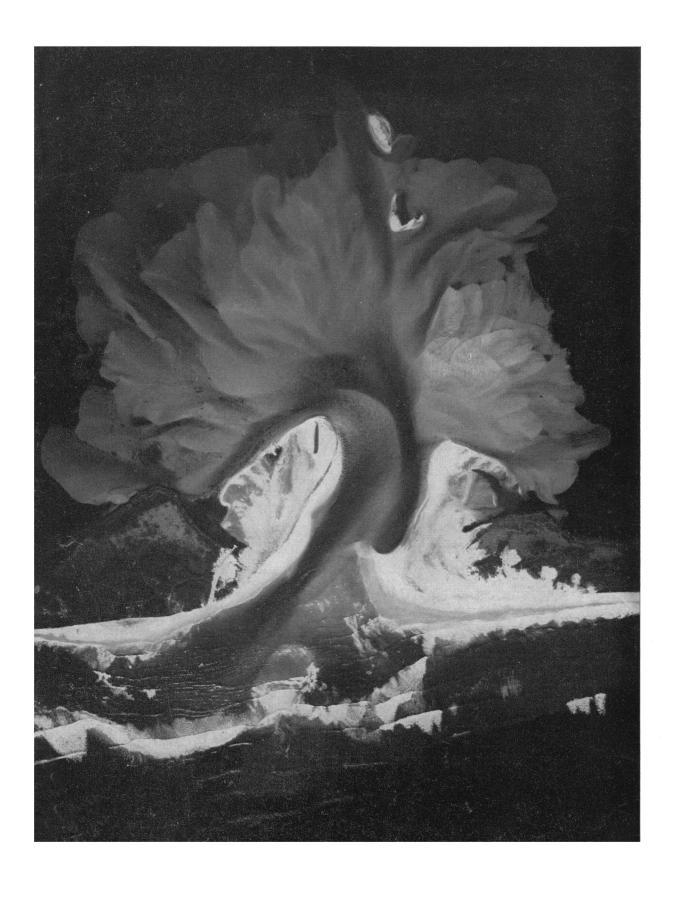
# SCIENCE 16 December 1960 Vol. 132, No. 3442

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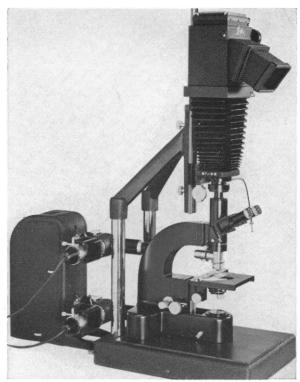




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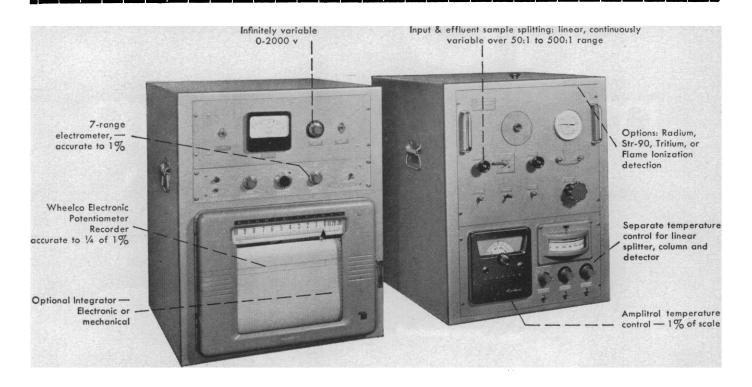
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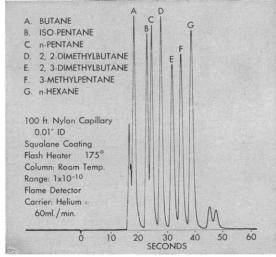
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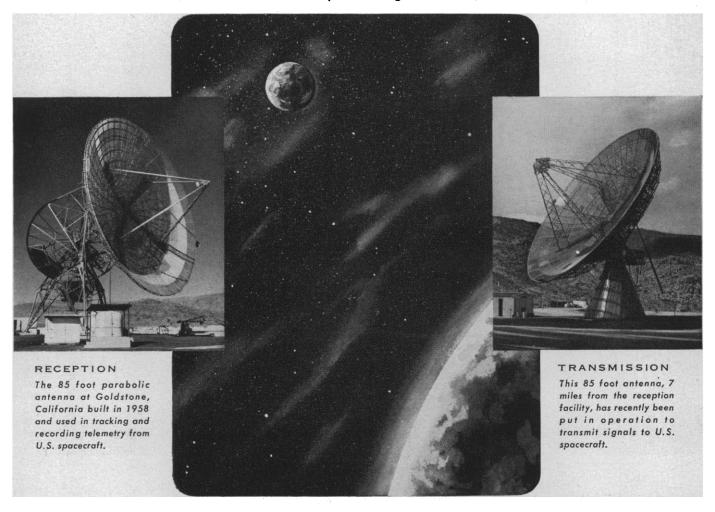
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Editorial	Social Science	1795
Articles	The Chilean Earthquakes of May 1960: C. M. Duke  Studies of the disaster increase our understanding of earth shocks and of ways to withstand them.	<b>17</b> 97
	Scientific Progress and the Federal Government  The Panel on Basic Research and Graduate Education of the President's Science Advisory Committee reports.	1802
	Tercentenary of the Royal Society: H. A. Moe  Celebrations of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge were held 18–26 July.	<b>18</b> 16
cience in the News	Ubell and Morrison To Receive AAAS-Westinghouse Awards; Sherburne To Head New AAAS Program To Improve Public Understanding	<b>182</b> 3
Book Reviews	B. Crozier's The Rebels, reviewed by L. W. Pye; other reviews	<b>182</b> 9
Reports	Evidence That Retinal Flicker Is Not a Necessary Condition of Imprinting:  P. H. Gray	1834
	Ribonuclease of Euglena gracilis: J. Fellig and C. E. Wiley	1835
	Effect of Reserpine on Ventricular Escape: J. Roberts and R. P. Stadter	1836
	Crystal Structure Refinement of Reedmergnerite, the Boron Analog of Albite:  J. R. Clark and D. E. Appleman	<b>183</b> 7
	Detection of Boundary Films: W. S. Wise, R. E. C. Munro, P. P. King	1838
	In vitro Organization of Single Beating Rat Heart Cells into Beating Fibers:  I. Harary and B. Farley	1839
	Photodynamic Inactivation of Infectious Nucleic Acid: M. Chessin	1840
	Temperature and Charge Transfer in a Receptor Membrane: N. Ishiko and W. R. Loewenstein	1841
	Frequency of Mutations Induced by Radiations in Hexaploid Species of Triticum:  M. S. Swaminathan and M. V. P. Rao	1842
Association Affairs	American Geophysical Union Program on the Impact of Space Research on the Sciences; Topical Summary of Symposia To Be Held at the New York Meeting	1843
Departments	Forthcoming Events; New Products	1844
Cover	Underwater sedimentary formations in Moriches Inlet off the south shore of Long Island, photographed from an airplane. From <i>The Intelligent Man's Guide to Science</i> by Isaac Asimov; see page 1830. [American Geographical Society and Basic Books]	

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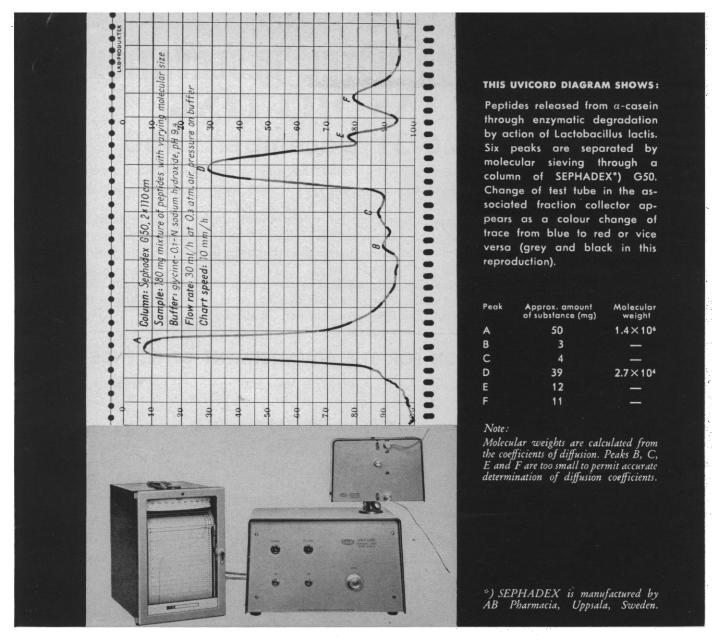
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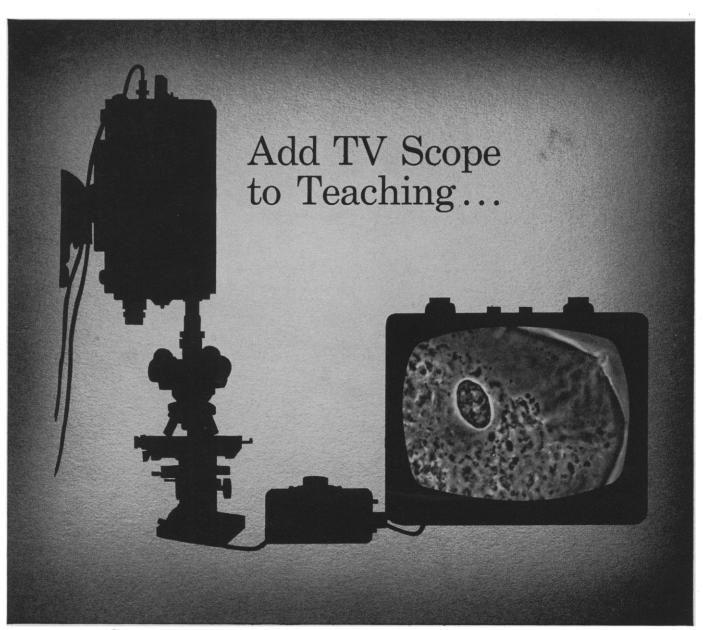
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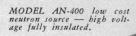
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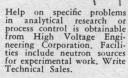
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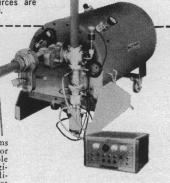
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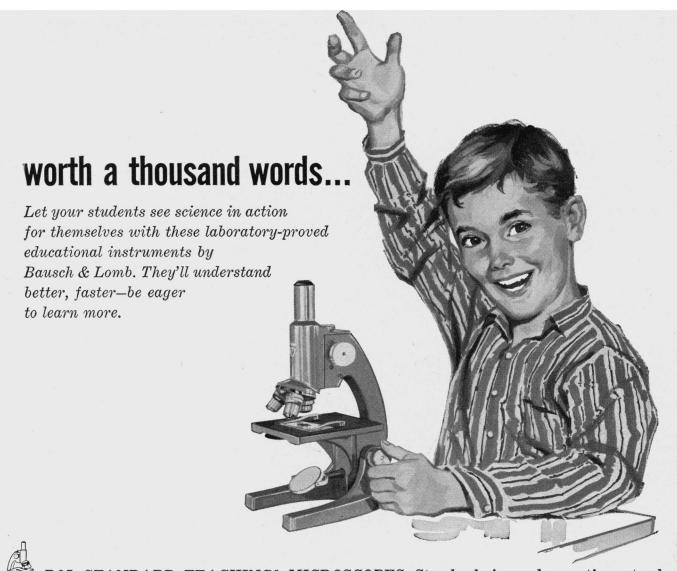
#### Social Science

The National Science Foundation has established a Division of Social Sciences, correlative with the divisions responsible for supporting work in the physical and biological sciences. Establishment of the new division concludes a debate that began in 1946 when Congress first discussed the creation of a National Science Foundation. Some of the Congressional bills included a Division of Social Sciences; others excluded it. The final compromise was to omit specific mention of the social sciences but to give the foundation an open-ended structure by attaching the words "... and other sciences" to each listing of fields in which research grants, fellowships, or other support might be given. What Congress said, in essence, to the new Foundation was: "We do not instruct you to support work in the social sciences and neither do we prohibit such work; we leave the decision in your hands."

This action was satisfactory to most scientists; indeed a number of social scientists recommended that their fields not be specifically mentioned so that the controversy might be settled and the Foundation brought into being. A poll conducted by the Inter-Society Committee for a National Science Foundation, which the AAAS established in 1947 to determine and make known the consensus of scientists with respect to the several organizational problems at issue, showed 49 percent of the scientists queried as favoring inclusion of the social sciences, 2 percent opposed, and 48 percent preferring to leave the decision to the Foundation itself. Ninety-eight percent were willing either to have a Division of Social Sciences written into the bill or to have the question decided by the Foundation itself; and 63 percent said they would prefer no foundation to one from which the social sciences were excluded by statute.

In the light of its legislative history, the NSF approached the social sciences gradually. From the very beginning, fellowships in the more biological aspects of anthropology and psychology were awarded. This was not support for the social sciences, but the action gave substance to the ". . . and other sciences" portion of the mandate. Later, research was supported in those areas of the social sciences that converge with the physical or biological sciences. Still later, these programs were expanded and brought together in an Office of Social Sciences. Now the Office has become a Division. What the Foundation has done, in essence, is to reply to Congress: "We have explored carefully the means of social science support we consider proper and have now decided that full recognition, through divisional status, is desirable."

Social scientists will be pleased, and so, unless majority opinion has changed since 1947, will most other scientists; pleased both with the symbolic value of the new status and with the promise of increased support that accompanied the NSF action. Support, the NSF has pointed out, will be for basic research that meets high standards of conceptual and methodological rigor, not for "applied craftsmanship in social affairs." This is as it should be, to be consistent with other programs of the NSF, to allay any remaining fears that the term social science is merely a cloak for action on important but sometimes controversial social issues, and to help competent research scholars interested in human and social behavior to develop their field to the point where there will no longer be any doubts concerning the appropriateness of the word science in social science.—D.W.



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### Meetings

#### **Forthcoming Events**

#### January

3-9. Indian Science Cong., 48th session. Roorkee (Uttar Pradesh), India. (General Secretary, ISC Assoc., 64 Dilkhusa St., Calcutta 17, India)
8-12. Thermoelectric Energy Conver-

8-12. Thermoelectric Energy Conversion, symp., Dallas, Tex. (P. H. Klein, General Electric Co., Electronics Lab., Bldg. 3, Room 221, Syracuse, N.Y.)
8-13. American Acad. of Orthopedic

8-13. American Acad. of Orthopedic Surgeons, Miami Beach, Fla. (J. K. Hart, 116 South Michigan Ave., Chicago 3, Ill.)

8-14. Bahamas Conf. on Hypertension, Nassau. (I. M. Wechsler, P.O. Box 1454, Nassau)

8-14. International Conf. of Social Work, 10th, Rome. (Miss R. M. William, ICSW, 345 E. 46 St., Room 1012, New York 17)

8-15. Latin American Convention of Astronomy, 2nd, Lima, Peru. [A. C. Parro, Enrique Palacios 187 (359), Chorrillos (Lima), Peru]

9-11. Reliability and Quality Control, 7th natl. symp., Philadelphia, Pa. (R. L. Schwerin, ACF Electronics Div., ACF Industries, Inc., 11 Park Place, Paramus, N.J.)

9-12. White House Conf. on Aging, Washington, D.C. (Special Staff on Aging, Office of the Undersecretary, Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington 25)

9-13. Society of Automotive Engineers, annual, Detroit, Mich. (SAE, 485 Lexington Ave., New York 17)

10-11. Conference on Physics of Polymers, Bristol, England. (Organizing Secretary, Physical Soc., 1 Lowther Gardens, London, S.W.7)

16-18. American Astronautical Soc., annual, Dallas, Tex. (F. F. Martin, AAS, 304 S. Woodstock Dr., Haddonfield, N.J.)

16-19. Instrument Soc. of America, winter instrument-automation conf., St. Louis, Mo. (W. H. Kushnick, 313 Sixth

Ave., Pittsburgh 22, Pa.)

22–28. Bahamas Serendipity Conf., 3rd, Nassau. (I. M. Wechsler, P.O. Box 1454, Nassau)

23-25. Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, 29th annual, New York, N.Y. (Meetings Dept., IAS, 2 E. 64 St., New York 21)

23–26. American Meteorological Soc., 41st annual, New York, N.Y. (K. C. Spengler, AMS, 45 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.)

24-27. American Mathematical Soc., 67th annual, Washington, D.C. (J. W. Green, Univ. of California, Los Angeles)

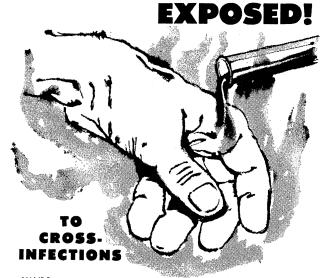
24-27. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Washington, D.C. (G. Kaskey, Remington Rand Univac, 1900 W. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.)

24-27. Society of Plastics Engineers, 17th annual conf., Washington, D.C. (T. A. Bissell, SPE, 65 Prospect St., Stamford, Conn.)
25-27. Mathematical Assoc. of Amer-

25-27. Mathematical Assoc. of America, annual, Washington, D.C. (H. L. Alder, Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of California, Davis)

California, Davis)
26–27. Western Spectroscopy Conf., 8th annual, Pacific Grove, Calif. (R. C. Hawes, Applied Physics Corp., 2724 S. Peck Rd., Monrovia, Calif.)

SCIENCE, VOL. 132



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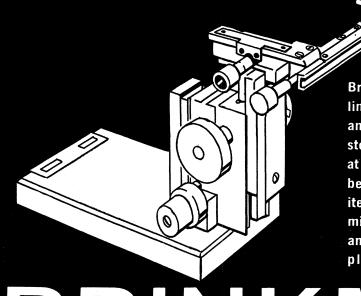
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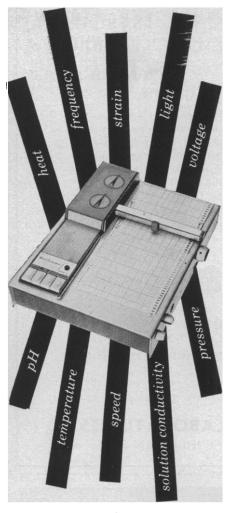
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28-30. Control of the Mind, symp., San Francisco, Calif. (Dept. of Continuing Education in Medicine, Univ. of California Medical Center, San Francisco 22)

28-31. Infertility, sectional meeting, Intern. Fertility Assoc., Acapulco, Mexico. (M. L. Brodny, 4646 Marine Dr., Chicago 40, Ill.)

29-3. American Inst. of Electrical Engineers, winter meeting, New York, N.Y. (E. C. Day, AIEE, Technical Operations Dept., 33 W. 39 St., New York 18)

30-3. Clinical Cong. of Abdominal Surgeons, Miami Beach, Fla. (B. F. Alfano, 663 Main St., Melrose 76, Mass.)

30-4. American Library Assoc., midwinter meeting. (Mrs. F. L. Spain, New York Public Library, 20 W. 53 St., New York, N.Y.)

31-4. American Assoc. of Physic Teachers, New York, N.Y. (F. Verbrugge, 135 Main Engineering, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis)

31-4. American Physical Soc., annual, New York, N.Y. (K. Darrow, APS, Columbia Univ., 116th St. and Broadway, New York)

#### February

1-3. Solid Propellant Rocket Conf., American Rocket Soc., Salt Lake City, Utah. (R. D. Geckler, Aerojet-General Corp., P.O. Box 1947, Sacramento, Calif.)

1-3. Winter Military Electronics Conv., 2nd, Inst. of Radio Engineers, Los Angeles, Calif. (A. N. Curtiss, IRE Business Office, 1435 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles 35)

1-4. American Physical Soc., annual, New York, N.Y. (K. K. Darrow, APS, 538 W. 120 St., New York 27)

2-4. Congress on Administration, 4th annual, Chicago, Ill. (R. E. Brown, American College of Hospital Administrators, 840 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago 11)

6-8. American Acad. of Allergy, 17th annual, Washington, D.C. (J. O. Kelly, 756 North Milwaukee St., Milwaukee 2, Wis.)

6-8. Geodesy in the Space Age, symp., Ohio State Univ., Columbus. (W. A. Heiskanen, Ohio State Univ., 1314 Kinnear Road, Columbus 12)

9-15. Second Allergy Conf., Nassau, Bahamas. (I. M. Wechsler, P.O. Box 1454, Nassau)

13-16. American Soc. of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Chicago, Ill. (R. C. Cross, 234 Fifth Ave., New York 1)

15-17. International Solid-State Circuits Conf., Philadelphia, Pa. (J. J. Suran, Bldg. 3, Room 115, General Electric Co., Electronics Park, Syracuse, N.Y.)

22-25. American Educational Research Assoc., annual, Chicago, Ill. (G. T. Buswell, 1201 16th St., NW, Washington 6)

23-25. American Orthopsychiatric Assoc., annual, New York, N.Y. (Miss M. F. Langer, 1790 Broadway, New York 19)

23-25. Fifteenth Annual Symp. on Fundamental Cancer Research, Houston, Tex. (Publications Dept., Univ. of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Inst., Texas Medical Center, Houston 25)

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