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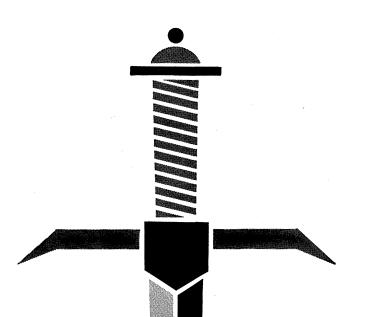
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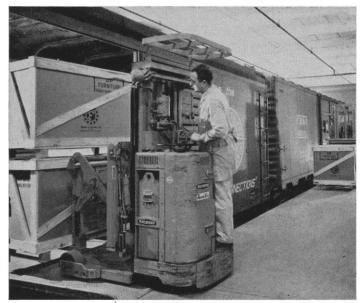
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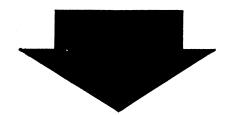
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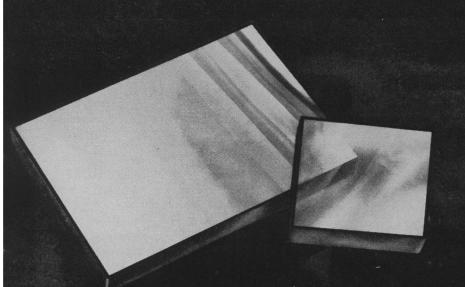
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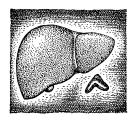
IN MAY-(1874) – James Clerk Maxwell philosophizes about colour vision. "I have here . . . a picture of the structure upon which the light falls at the back of the eye. There is a minute structure of bodies like rods and cones or pegs, and it is conceivable that the mode in which we become aware of the shapes of things is by a consciousness which differs according to the particular rods on the ends of which the light falls, just as the pattern formed by a Jacquard loom depends on the mode in which the perforated cards act on the system of movable rods in that machine. In the eye we have on the one hand light falling on this wonderful structure, and on the other hand we have the sensation of sight. We cannot compare these two things; they belong to opposite categories. The whole of Metaphysics lies like a great gulf between them."

While the gulf between light and sight remains, it is narrowing; we know more about the intermediate processes. DPN has been shown to play an important role in the metabolic transformations triggered by light-activated bleaching of the visual purple or rhodopsin. ATP provides the chemical energy for the neurophysiological mechanisms that follow. For workers who are reducing the gulf still further, Schwarz BioResearch supplies DPN, ATP, and other important metabolic cofactors such as adenylic acid, cocarboxylase, flavin adenine dinucleotide, guanosine diphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate.



IN MAY—(1934)—Max Bergmann has yet to leave Dresden for the United States, but his papers are already appearing in American journals. This month, in *Science*, he discusses the use of carbobenzoxy amino acids in the synthesis of peptides. These "beautiful crystalline" substances can easily be transformed into their acid chlorides or azides, and the latter in turn condensed with other amino acids to yield carbobenzoxy peptides. The carbobenzoxy residue can then be readily eliminated without using a hydrolytic agent and thereby without risking a split in the peptide bond. Since carbobenzoxy amino acids are surprisingly stable to racemizing influences, it is now simple to prepare many optically active peptides previously considered practically inaccessible.<sup>2</sup>

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IN MAY—(1956)—Lowe and Rand discuss the ability of cortisone to produce certain changes in liver metabolism of RNA in rats.<sup>3</sup> They suggest that a variant RNA may be synthesized under the influence of cortisone or that normal RNA may be converted to this variant. This "new" RNA differs in solubility properties and rate of P<sup>32</sup> incorporation. One of the more significant aspects of this variation is that it may be unable to act as a template for normal protein synthesis.

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1. Maxwell, J. C.: On colour vision. Nature 4:13 (May) 1874. 2. Bergmann, M.: Synthesis and degradation of proteins in the laboratory and in metabolism. Science 79:218 (May 18) 1934. 3. Lowe, C. U., and Rand, R. N.: Alterations in biochemical composition and ribonucleic acid metabolism induced in rat liver by cortisone. J. Biophys. and Biochem. Cytology 2:331 (May 25) 1956.



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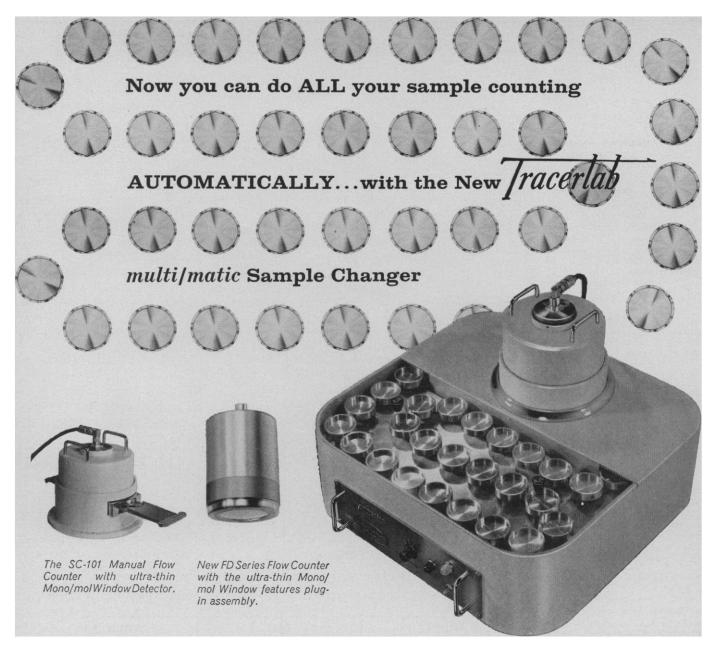
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SCIENCE, now combined with THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at National Publishing Company, Washington, D.C. SCIENCE is indexed in the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature.

Editorial correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, see Science 125, 16 (4 Jan. 1957).

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### How Helpful Is Freedom?

Because science depends so immediately on freedom of inquiry, partisans of political freedom are tempted to believe that democracy, whatever its shortcomings in producing space spectaculars, must in the end be the form of government best designed to produce pure science. The argument is that the individual must be free to propose hypotheses and test them. Heinrich Schliemann in the 19th century, for example, had to be free both to believe that Hissarlik was the site of Homer's Troy and to go to the spot and dig. If some government had held, as a consequence of its metaphysics, that Troy never existed, or if some government had feared that the practice of digging for Troy might lead to a penchant for digging into other matters as well, then there would have been no archeological confirmation of the

This argument is sound, but the implications for the superiority of democracy as an environment for science are limited. For one thing, freedom by itself is not enough. Although Schliemann may have been free to dig as deeply as he liked, he had first to amass the fortune necessary to finance his digging. But what is more interesting is that science has other characteristics besides the need for freedom, and these other characteristics suggest that this need if deep may not be broad.

Besides the posing and testing of hypotheses, science is also characterized by its procedure of not attempting to answer all questions at once. Scientific knowledge is possible because it is compartmentalized, because it is possible to discover truths about one question and at the same time ignore other questions. Hydrodynamics, for example, can be studied independently of thermodynamics, and the two disciplines together have nothing to say about the sensory qualities of a cold drink of water on a hot day. It may well be that freedom of the most complete sort in one part of knowledge is entirely compatible with total bondage in another part.

Research in its later stages, it is true, has a way of breaking down the very barriers that made earlier progress possible. If science is compartmentalized, it also strives toward unity. The turn of the century saw how increased knowledge about the structure of the atom broke down the barriers between chemistry and physics, and we are now watching our growing knowledge of the structure of the gene break down the barriers between biology and the physical sciences. But unity, in turn, produces new compartments. If where once stood a fence there is now a house, the house itself is a kind of enclosure and within it lives a new group of specialists.

One point about a totalitarian government is clear. To the extent that it chooses to meddle with the methods of research, or to dictate the results of research, science will be the loser. But without claiming that the pull in science toward specialization is somehow stronger than the pull toward unity, it is still possible to say that freedom to study a particular problem is not immediately dependent on freedom to study every problem. What has yet to be fully determined is what happens when a totalitarian government chooses to support some parts of science vigorously and intelligently, because it sees the achievements of science as contributing to its own greater glory.—J.T.



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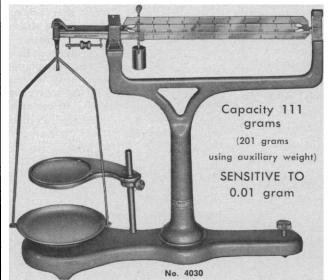
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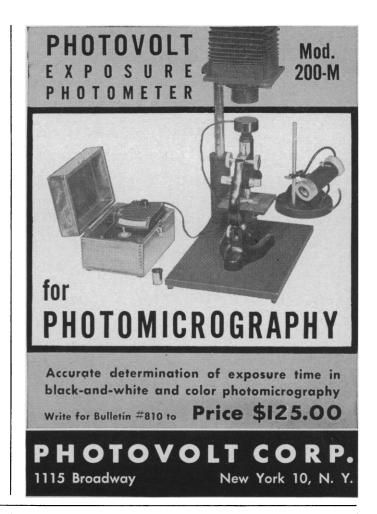
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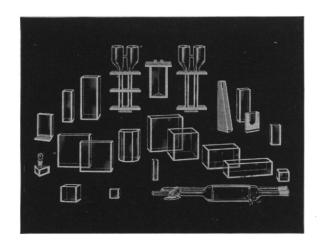
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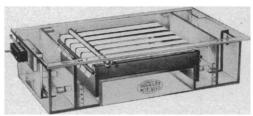


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5-7. American Soc. for Quality Control, Philadelphia, Pa. (W. P. Youngclaus, Jr., 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee 3, Wis.)

5-7. Fundamental Aspects of Radiosensitivity, symp., Upton, N.Y. (A. H. Sparrow, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, L.I.)

5-8. International Instrument-Automation Conf. and Exhibit, Instrument Soc. of America, Toronto, Canada. (I.S.A., 313 Sixth Ave., Pittsburgh 22, Pa.)

5-9. Animal Reproduction, 4th intern. cong., Amsterdam, Netherlands. (Secretariat, Burgemeester de Monchyplein 14, The Hague, Netherlands)

5-9. Effects of Ionizing Radiation on the Nervous System, symp., Vienna, Austria. (J. Burt, International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations, New York,

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8-18. International Organization for Standardization, general assembly (members only), Finland. (American Standards Association, 70 East 45 St., New York

9-11. Society of Biological Psychiatry, Atlantic City, N.J. (G. N. Thompson, 2010 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 57, Calif.)

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12-14. Society for the Study of Development and Growth, regeneration symp., Williamstown, Mass. (A. C. Braun, Rockefeller Inst., New York 21)

12-15. Nature of the Real, conf., Milwaukee, Wis. (E. D. Simmons, Dept. of