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## Reprint Requests

Some years ago an article appeared in which the merits of printed "reprint-request" postcards were closely examined [J. Hedgpeth, *Am. Scientist* 42, 497 (1954)]. Rather few of the cards' alleged merits withstood the author's critical scrutiny. The cards were adjudged discourteous, inconsiderate, and generally to be abhorred. In fact, I was sufficiently impressed by the fire of condemnation to forswear the use of such contemptible missives. Subsequently, each of my reprint requests was accompanied by a carefully worded letter of justification. Unfortunately, this habit was shattered by the disillusionment that resulted when I and several colleagues at Yale received smudged, printed reprint-request postcards from several of the same knights who had joined in challenging the boorish reprint collectors. Sad is the life of the idealists!

In recent months the need for renewed attack has become acute. To pass over, for the moment, the dozens of mailings to anonymous collectors that the cards demand, there are now appearing increasing numbers of cards requesting *two* reprints, "one for me and one for my library." When each of the two workers at an arctic research station sent me such a card the dam was breached, and this flow commenced. Perhaps these men were merely lonely and wanting to encourage correspondence. Perhaps their months of solitude in bitter arctic wastes had caused each to retreat from contact with the other (but two libraries?). In the face of such a pattern, however, it is clear that the most economical solution would be to abolish all journals and to offer all articles for sale as separates. Could the alternative proposed by Hedgpeth also be prayerfully reconsidered?

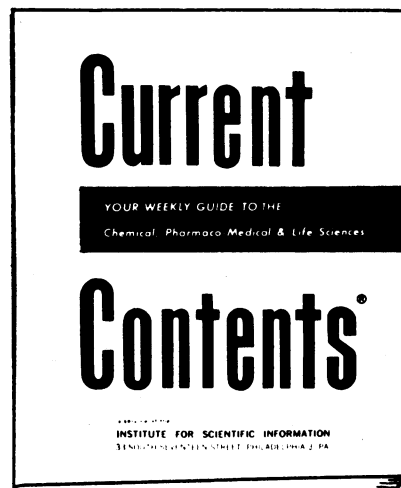
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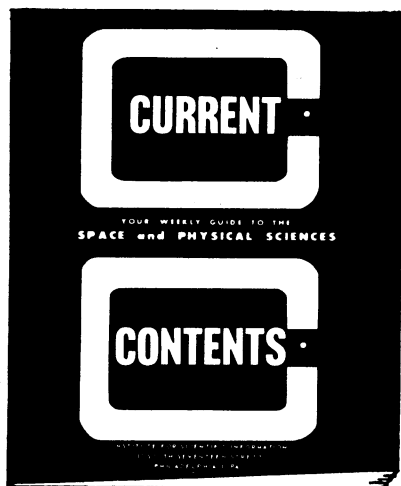
## Repetitive Self-Stimulation

Since Olds and Milner described the repetitive self-stimulation by rats with electrodes implanted in their brain, there has been increasing acceptance of the concept that this self-stimulation is of a rewarding nature. Certainly it is understandable how this view has arisen, but I submit that this

# TIME SAVERS



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