

dren and Adults, annual conv., Denver, Colo. (NSCCA, 2023 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago 12, Ill.)

19-22. International College of Surgeons, Western regional, San Francisco, Calif. (W. F. James, 1516 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 10, Ill.)

22-27. Automation and Instrumentation, 5th conf., Milan, Italy. (Federezione delle Societa Scientifiche e Tecniche di Milano, via S. Tomaso 3, Milan)

22-1. Radioisotopes in Animal Biology and the Medical Sciences, conf., Mexico City, D.F. (International Atomic Energy Agency, 11 Kärntner Ring, Vienna 1, Austria)

## Letters

### Coconut Water

I would like to make a suggestion on coconut (*Cocos nucifera*, L.) terminology. Many scientists have been attracted to the use of coconut liquid endosperm because of its nutritive properties for plant tissue-culture work and sporulation of fungi. Readers are somewhat confused with the terms used

to indicate the liquid found when a coconut is opened. American workers refer to it as coconut milk; others, as coconut water.

In most Asian countries the term *coconut milk* refers to the milky-white sap expressed from grated nut meat or solid endosperm, *coconut water* to the liquid endosperm. Many more uses of the latter are likely to develop. I therefore suggest, for uniformity in terminology, that only one term—*coconut water*—be used to refer to the liquid endosperm, in order to avoid confusion.

CONCEPCION L. VALERA

College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines, College, Laguna

## Introducing

at 11th annual NIH exhibit - Booth 8

### RESCAP

a new closure that maintains aerobic culture growth while tightly sealed...

featuring

#### A PERMEABLE MEMBRANE WHICH

- discriminates between respiratory gases and contaminating particulate matter at molecular level
- differentiates water vapor from respiratory gases to prevent media dehydration

#### A STERILE CLOSURE DEVICE WHICH

- provides positive sealing on both plain rim and threaded culture tubes
- protects against contamination from aerial fallout or accidental contact

#### UNLIKE ALL OTHER CULTURE CLOSURES

- control of gas, moisture, and contaminant passage is not a function of closure fit, but rather of a standardized permeable element.

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### Modern Biology

I began Commoner's article "In defense of biology" [*Science* **133**, 1745, 1961] in the peace and quiet, almost the somnolence, of a comfortable armchair and it wasn't until the bottom of the second column that it broke upon me that biology was being defended against none other than myself. Commoner is concerned, it seems, over the attitude taken toward biology in my book, *The Intelligent Man's Guide to Science*, and, in particular, is horrified at my statement that "modern science has all but wiped out the border-line between life and non-life."

In response, Commoner says: "Since biology is the science of life, any successful obliteration of the distinction between living things and other forms of matter ends forever the usefulness of biology as a separate science. If the foregoing sentence is even remotely correct, biology is not only under attack; it has been annihilated."

I could not help but be moved by the anguish clearly detectable in this *cri de coeur*, and I long to assure Commoner that he need not fear. Biology will not be annihilated even if the boundary between life and nonlife vanishes.

There was, after all, a time when astronomical advance removed the boundary between earth and the other planets, and that did not annihilate geology as a separate science. The advance of knowledge in biology removed the boundary between man and other species, and that has not annihilated sociology as a separate science. In fact, both geology and sociology became more meaningful when both could draw upon and, in turn, enlighten, a broader field of inquiry.