

Taylor and Pfeiffer Win AAAS-Westinghouse Awards

The \$1000 AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Awards for 1961 will go to Rennie Taylor, of the Associated Press's San Francisco bureau, and John Pfeiffer, a free-lance writer from New Hope, Pa. William Hines, of the Washington, D.C., *Evening Star*, received his third consecutive honorable mention in the newspaper field, and, in recognition of his consistent meritorious contributions, was also granted a special citation and \$500 award. An honorable mention citation also went to A. C. B. Lovell, director of the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station and professor of radio astronomy at the University of Manchester (England), for magazine writing.

Taylor's three-part series, entitled "Sun, Space and Stars: The New Perspective Beckons Mankind," outlined the expanding knowledge man is gaining of the universe through recent penetration into space. The entry, which appeared in newspapers from coast to coast, was the last major story he filed for the Associated Press prior to his retirement. A native of Ponca, Nebr., Taylor began his newspaper career at the age of 19. He joined the AP in Denver in 1923, and began his specialty of science writing in 1937.

Pfeiffer's prize-winning article, "DNA: master substance of life," appeared in the December 1960 issue of *Natural History*. It described the properties of deoxyribonucleic acid. Born in New York in 1914, Pfeiffer has been writing about science since 1936, when he graduated from Yale and joined *Newsweek* as a science researcher. He later became science director of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and has been free-lancing for the past 10 years. His articles have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Fortune*, *Science*, and numerous other publications. His books include *The Human Brain*, *The Changing Universe: A Story of Radio Astronomy*, and *From Galaxies to Man*. His latest book, *The Thinking Machine*, will be published early in 1962.

Hines won honorable mention in the newspaper category for the third consecutive year, the latest citation being for a 15-part series, "Operation Moon," an evaluation of the government program to reach the moon in the 1960's. The series appeared in the *Washington Evening Star* from 10 to 24 September 1961.

Lovell's article, "Listening to the universe," appeared in the 15 October 1960 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*. The entry, published as a part of the *Post's* "Adventures of the Mind" series, described how large radio telescopes are tuning in on billion-year-old signals from outer space to probe new mysteries of the universe.

The board of judges, representing the fields of journalism, science, and education, was chaired by Morris Meister, president of Bronx Community College. Other members were: Walter G. Barlow, president of Opinion Research Corporation; Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review*; Geoffrey Edsall, superintendent of the Institute of Laboratories in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Earl English, dean of the University of Missouri's School of Journalism; and Ralph McGill, publisher of the *Atlanta Constitution*.

The awards, made possible by a grant from the Westinghouse Educational Foundation, were established to give recognition and encouragement to outstanding science writing; to stimulate public interest in science; and to foster a deeper understanding of science by the general public. The prizes will be presented on 27 December in Denver, Colorado, during the annual meeting of the AAAS.

Announcements

An **electronic monitoring system**, capable of measuring pilot and aircraft reactions to flight in 6 seconds, has been successfully tested by the U.S. Air Force. The system, consisting of two ground-based consoles, monitors impulses from physiological and aeronautical sensors and transducers that have been placed on the pilot and in strategic parts of the plane. The impulses, radioed to a station on the ground, are amplified and sent by microwave relay to the Air Force Flight Test Center. The information is then fed into a computer and displayed on the consoles, revealing the pilot's breathing rate, reaction time, blood pressure, heart beat, body temperature, and volume of air breathed. The new system also indicates attitudes and strains on the airplane, including speed, pitch, roll, yaw, skin temperature, wing flutter and strain, and susceptibility to stall. Previous monitoring systems, which recorded

performance data of both pilot and airplane on tape, required time-consuming evaluation before flight stress could be determined. (Maj. R. M. Dudley, Office of Information, Edwards AFB, Calif.)

The National Cancer Institute has established a **virology research resources branch** to administer and develop studies on viruses as a possible cause of human cancer. The new unit, headed by Harvey I. Scudder, will use contracts to support the development of special materials needed for virus-cancer research, such as tissue-culture cell lines, virus-detection agents, special experimental animals, and normal and malignant human tissue.

An **International Society for Research in Stereoccephalotomy**—a type of brain surgery—has been established with E. A. Spiegel, professor of neurology at Temple University School of Medicine, as president. The transactions of the society will appear in *Confinia Neurologica*, published in Basel, Switzerland. (H. T. Wycis, Secretary, 3401 N. Broad St., Philadelphia 40, Pa.)

Detailed results of a 1957 survey on **scientific research and development expenditures of nonprofit organizations** have been released by the National Science Foundation. The report covers private philanthropic foundations, voluntary health agencies, independent nonprofit research institutes, certain federal-contract research centers, professional and technical societies, science museums, zoological and botanical gardens, and arboretums. (Superintendent of Documents, G.P.O., Washington 25, D.C. \$0.45)

Universities, museums, and research institutions interested in undertaking **research in Nubia, Africa**, are invited to submit detailed plans on anthropological, archeological, historical, paleontological, geological, or other research projects. (U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, Department of State, Washington 25, D.C.)

The 1960 **microfilm edition of Science** has been completed and is available in two reels. The year 1960 is priced at \$11.75; 1959, at \$10.95; and 1958, at \$9.85. The entire set from 1883 through 1957 is available at \$812. Individual out-of-print copies may also be obtained in Xerox form. (University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan)