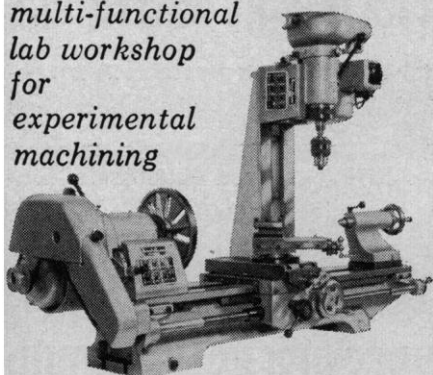
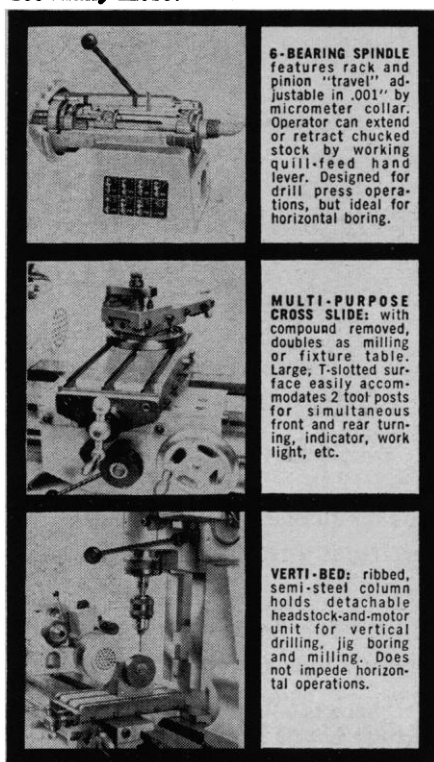


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eating foods that have been stored as long as practicable. For many foods available in frozen or canned form, this presents no real problem. For others, such as fresh milk and rapidly growing and perishable fresh vegetables, the solution is to minimize or eliminate these from the diet until the present rash of atmospheric nuclear tests has ceased. Fortunately, the great majority of fallout isotopes are short-lived. Only a few, such as strontium-90, cesium-137, and carbon-14, are long-lived. These latter present a problem not so readily solved.

H. A. POEHLER

Eau Gallie, Florida

## Welfare Agencies

I am writing in connection with the brief notice [*Science* 134, 1058 (1961)] regarding the Rockefeller Foundation Report entitled "Voluntary Health and Welfare Agencies in the United States," in which you say the report states that voluntary health and welfare agencies "often compete wastefully among themselves." You further say, "The agencies, the report states, do much good but often fail to tell the truth about their programs and financing" (italics mine).

I know it is difficult to excerpt from an 88-page report and condense it accurately, but I think that your negative statement fails to touch the true emphasis of the report. The significance of this report, in my estimation, is that it shows the tremendous participation of the American public in voluntary health and welfare activities, and shows an increasing financial support from the public. The report calls for measures which would essentially introduce more standardization, better methods of evaluation, and greater application of management principles to agencies that have grown through the philanthropic impulses and personal concern of the American people. In my 22 years in this field I have found that most agencies have done everything possible "to tell the truth about their programs and financing" but that they have a practical limitation in that they attempt to put as much of the contributor's dollar as possible into carrying out the programs rather than telling about them. I would certainly commend the report to all of my fellow readers of *Science*, and I believe it will have a profound effect upon this field for many years to come.

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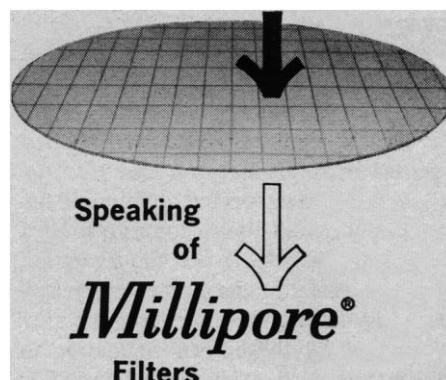
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Metcalf, T.G. 1961  
Applied Microbiology, 9:376-379, September

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SCIENCE, VOL. 135

Angeles County Heart Association has, for a number of years, been carrying out the activities recommended by the report and has been a leader in analyzing and applying the best management and community-organization principles to operations in the health field. We have regular agency evaluation and have pioneered in the application of uniform accounting principles. I know also that we are not unique in this respect. We welcome increased interest in the very complex problem of finding ways to achieve scientific management and administration and still maintain "voluntary" efforts.

I do wish to comment that many of the observations of the report have the limitations of generalizations and that some are of questionable validity. Uniform accounting may be convenient for research investigators but is not essential for honest reporting of different programs of different organizations. This is certainly a more complex problem than many amateur administrators realize.

CHAUNCEY A. ALEXANDER  
Los Angeles County Heart Association,  
Los Angeles, California

### Pitfall

Ann Roe, in her recent article, "The psychology of the scientist" [*Science* 134, 456 (1961)], discussed at some length the personal commitment of a scientist to a hypothesis he has formulated. A warning of this emotional pitfall has nowhere been better expressed than in the words of Francis Bacon (in his *Novum Organum*): "In general let every student of nature take this as a rule—that whatever his mind seizes and dwells on with peculiar satisfaction is to be held in suspicion; and that so much the more care is to be taken, in dealing with such questions, to keep the understanding even and clear."

F. G. WOOD, JR.  
Marineland Research Laboratory,  
St. Augustine, Florida

### Fluoridation

Some of the letters on fluoridation (1-3) which appeared in response to Levine's thoughtful note (4) merit attention. They tend to perpetuate a number of misconceptions about fluoridation which I believe it is important to correct.



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