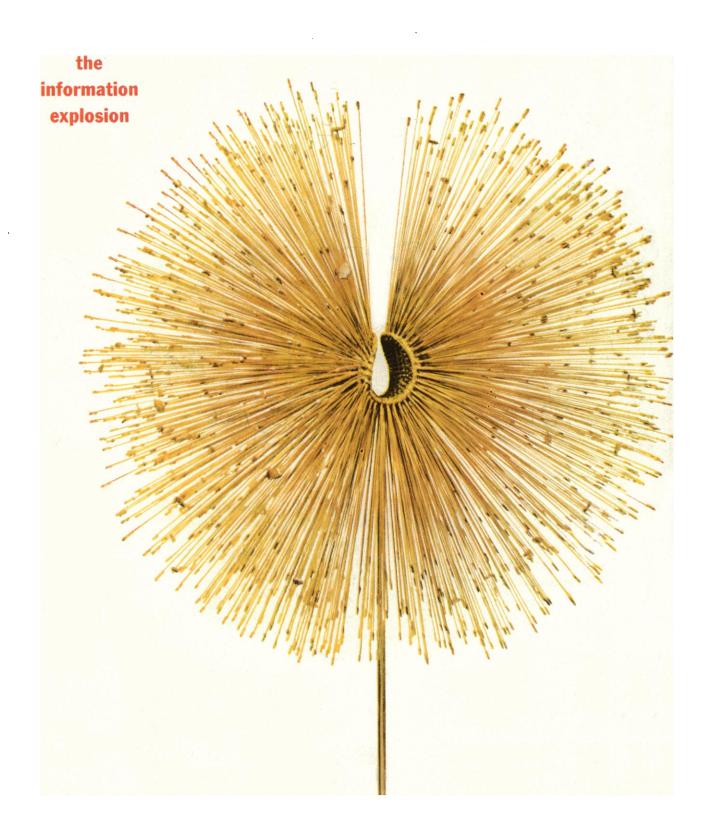


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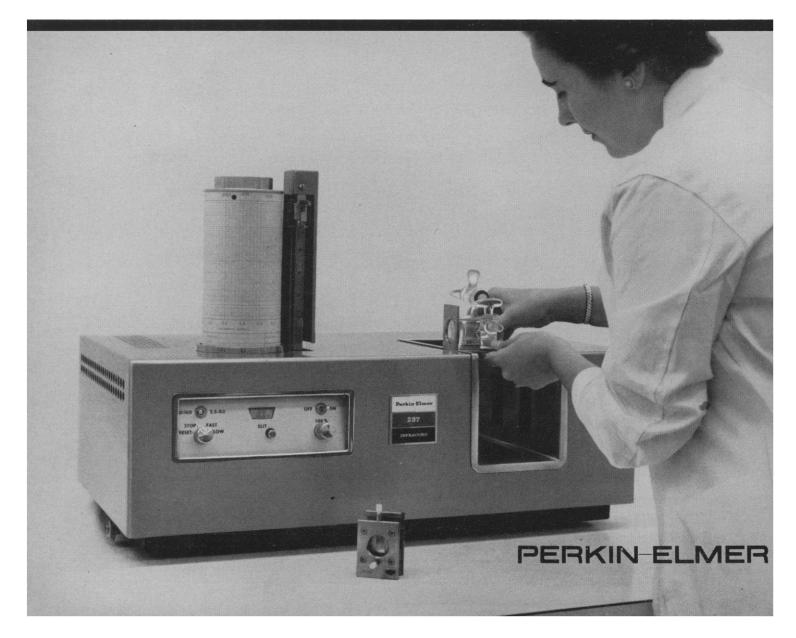
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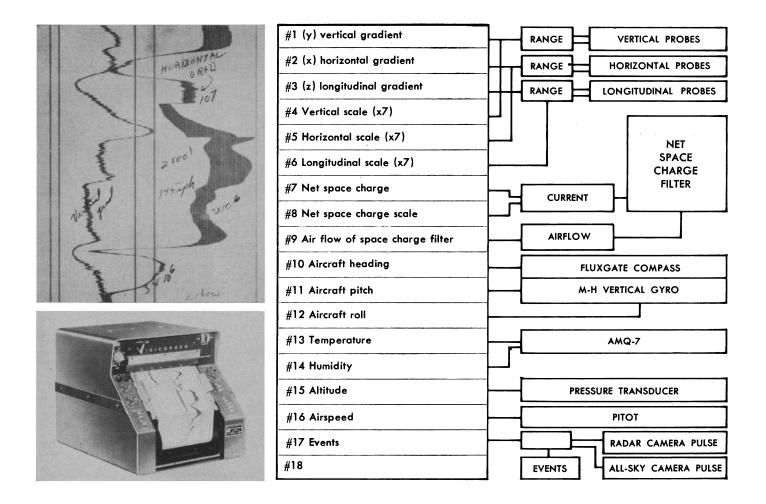
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Cover

Horizons of a soil profile. See page 1027. [R. W. Simonson, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Beltsville, Md.]



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The Visicorder Oscillograph directly records electrical charges in the atmosphere.

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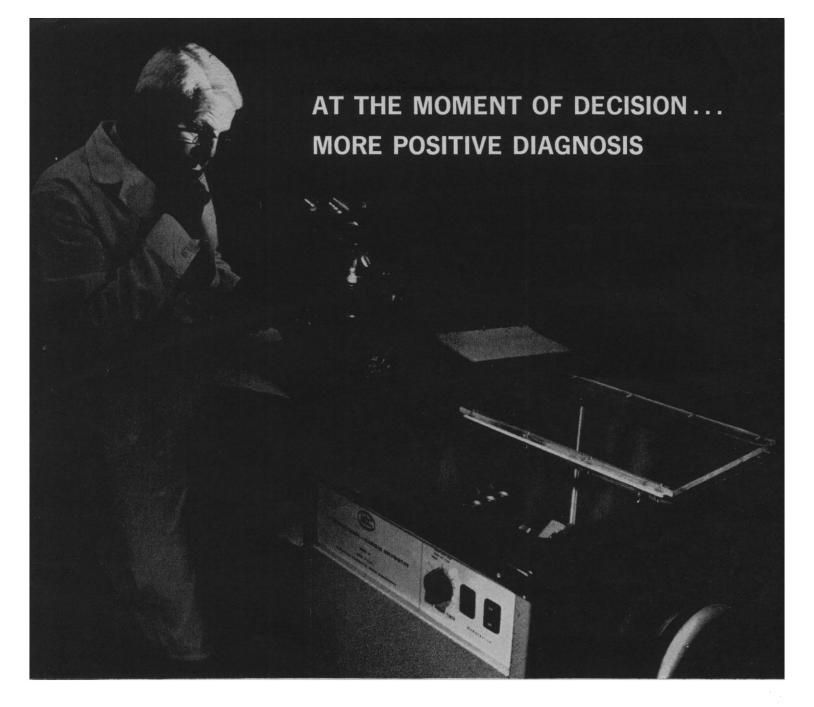
The Illinois State Water Survey has scattered a network of 50 rain gages across about 400 square miles downwind from 30 miles of small stainless steel wire stretched in a gridlike pattern 30 ft. above the ground. Seven power supplies energize the wire to about 20,000 volts with each supply having an output of 1 to 3 milliamperes.

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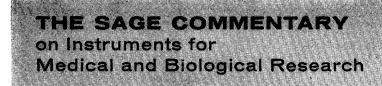
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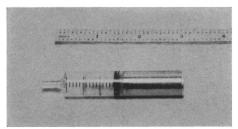
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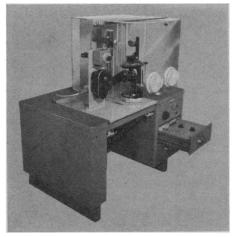
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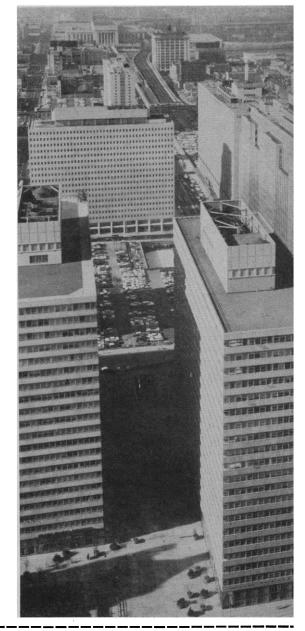
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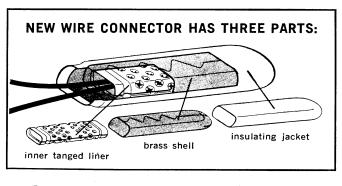
Telephone craftsman uses special pneumatic tool to flatten connector onto insulated wires. Metal tangs pierce insulation and produce a splice that is equivalent to a soldered joint.

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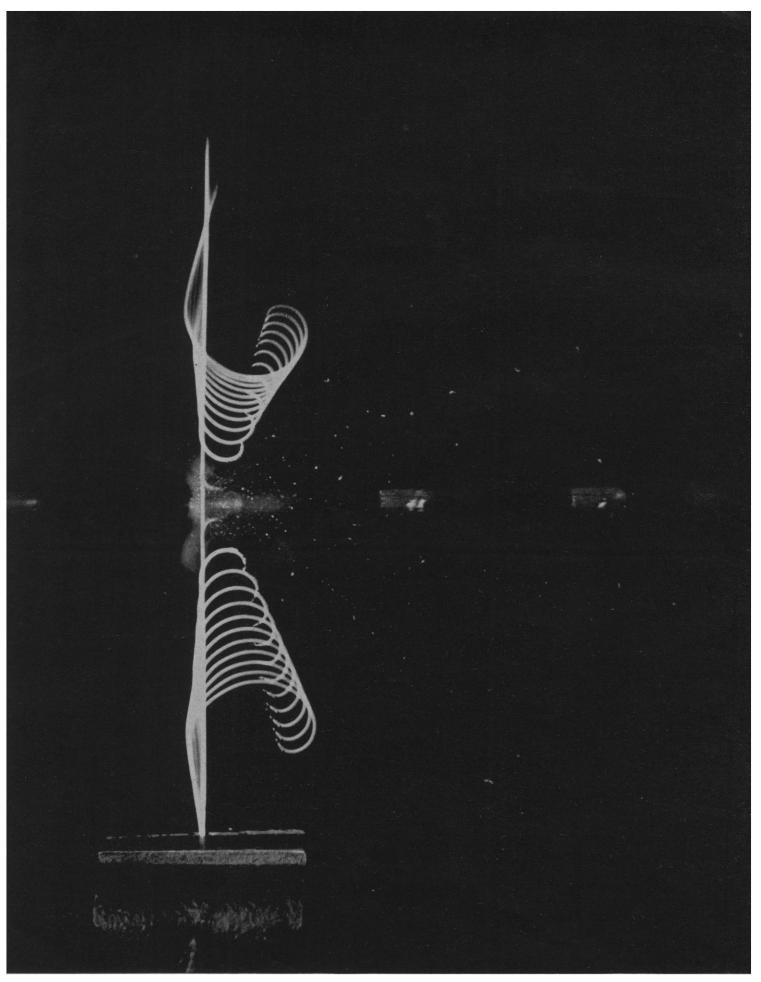
The craftsman slips the two wire ends—with insulation intact—into the connector, then flattens the connector with a pneumatic tool. Springy phosphor bronze tangs inside the connector bite through the insulation to contact the copper wire. The stable, low-resistance splice established is maintained for many years, even under conditions of high humidity, corrosive atmospheres and vibration.

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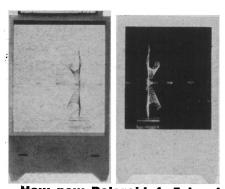
Working with our manufacturing partners at Western Electric, our engineers developed this connector into a design capable of being mass-produced at low cost. It is being introduced in the Bell System.







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sufficient control of [pestilence and famine] so that they no longer effectively govern his increase in number." It is really absurd to think that man, with all his ability, cannot govern his breeding if he wishes, that "biological law" makes him multiply. He has for long ages been quite able to control his numbers, though without certain refinements now discovered. At a recent meeting in the Toronto General Hospital that was devoted to "new concepts in fertility and dysfertility," I asked how many children a couple might have. The physician who undertook to answer the question said that they might perhaps have a thousand children. This is vastly short of the 200,000 ova and about 200 million spermatozoa (per ejaculation) that Dorn states are seemingly available. But even this number will not be easily achieved; it should not be considered to pose a threat of overpopulation!

A. G. HUNTSMAN

Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

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 C. M. Turnbull, The Forest People (Simon and Schuster, New York, 1961).
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Studies on the

Metric System Proposal

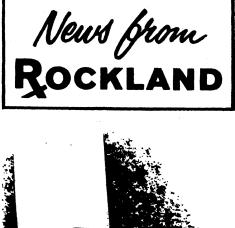
I read with interest the editorial "Weights and measures" in a recent issue of Science [136, 1085 (1962)]. As one who made a 2-year professional study of the subject some decades back. with a large staff of assistants, I appreciate the objectivity in the pros and cons you list. More could hardly be gotten into a short editorial, and I do not propose to pursue the pros and cons much further here. I should like to make some comments in the interest of perspective, however, on the preamble, rebuttal, and conclusion.

I feel sure it is just a slip (though it may leave a wrong impression) when you say "the question of adopting the metric system in the United States is again being debated" (italics mine). Nearly 100 years ago (in 1866) the metric system was legally adopted in this country. The question today is rather one of penalizing the use of our thoroughly standardized English system, thus destroying it, and substituting the metric system as the sole system for the United States.

In my study (in 1921) it was found that, after nearly 60 years of legal right, not more than one-tenth of 1 percent of the American people used the metric units. Of the rest, relatively few had even heard of this system, and yet the 99.9 percent would be the people to suffer and to be much more than inconvenienced by a compulsory change, whether it took 33 or 333 years. (The latter period is the more likely if the experience of France is to be used as a criterion.)

This is the other side of the "rebuttal"; and there is another question one should raise in view of the fact that the metric system is neither scientific nor convenient except for fine-instrument making and foreign trade: By what kind of effrontery does one-tenth of 1 percent of our population keep on insisting that it should benefit at the expense of 99.9 percent of the people? In Forbes magazine, beginning with the issue of 19 January 1924, five articles were published (three by proponents of the proposal that the metric system be made mandatory and two by me). The following statement, in the 12 April 1924 issue, closed the series: "It is just about as sensible to attempt to substitute the metric for the English system in the United States as it would be to attempt to substitute in this country the French for the English language."

As for the conclusion, I should like to point out that a very considerable and objective study of the "facts" has already been made on at least two occasions, including the fact that there is nothing scientific about the existing metric system. The first study was made in 1821 by John Quincy Adams. It was this thoroughgoing analysis which Congress had before it in adopting the English rather than the metric units for the United States at that time. The second study was made 100 years later, by me. It was sponsored and financed by the National Industrial Conference Board, was published by the Century Company, went into every conceivable aspect of the subject, and was guided by an able committee of five outstanding American scientists, engineers, and businessmen. Two favored the metric system, two favored the English system, and one (the chairman) was uncommitted. The report (261 pages) had the unanimous approval of this committee, which was composed of E. M. Herr, president of the Westinghouse



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Another study may of course be in order at this time. If it takes up where these two definitive analyses and the five Forbes articles left off, if some means is devised to make certain that it is unbiased and objective (not left entirely in the hands of the Bureau of Standards), and if, in addition, it goes into the lobbying and propaganda activities that lie behind the perennial agitation for making the metric system mandatory in the United States, a useful purpose may be served. But it surely should not cost the American taxpayers \$500,000.

JOSEPH MAYER

929 Chestnut Lane, Oxford, Ohio

Note

1. Writing to Henry P. Fowler, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, on 27 July 1921, Towne designated the 1921 report, which is entitled "The Metric versus the English System of Weights and Measures," as "the most comprehensive and complete presentation . . . since the notable report of John Quincy Adams in 1821 . . a verifable mine of information for those who are interested in this subject."

Early Comments on the Moon Illusion

In their recent articles on the moon illusion [Science 136, 953, 1023 (1962)], Kaufman and Rock note the long history of concern with this phenomenon. It is of interest that an experimental proof for the view that the presence of intervening terrain creates a sense of greater distance leading to the greater apparent size of the horizon moon was offered by Malebranche in 1693 ["Réponse à M. Regis," Oeuvres de Malebranche (Librairie Philosophique J. Vrin, Paris, 1960), vol. 17, pp. 266-7]. In translation, the passage reads as follows.

"Take a flat piece of glass such as a broken glass pane. Heat it gradually and evenly while passing it over a candle flame at a distance of 3 or 4 fingers so that it won't break. When it becomes warm, lower it into the flame and leave it there until it is covered with smoke, so that by looking through it you are able distinctly to see the flame without seeing other, less brilliant objects.

"With a glass thus blackened, one will see the sun and the moon to be of the same size at the horizon . . . provided the glass is close enough to the eyes to entirely exclude the sky and the land. . . . If the sun is at the horizon, the interposition of the glass will make it appear approximately two times nearer and four times smaller, as here precision is not necessary. But if it is risen high above the horizon, the glass will produce no considerable change either in its distance or in its apparent size. . . .

"This being so, it is clear that the interposition of the glass does not change the actual size of the retinal image made by the moon, as it loses nothing of its apparent size when we look at it above our head through this glass. But when it is at the horizon, its distance and its apparent size are notably diminished by the interposition of the glass; this does not at all change its image and only excludes other objects. Thus it is evident that the reason the moon appears large is that the perception of the surrounding land makes us judge it farther away."

Malebranche recognized that the illusion disappeared when one could not see the intervening terrain, and that it was the horizon sun or moon which decreased both in apparent size and in apparent distance. He emphasized that the terrain had to be entirely eclipsed, else the illusion would remain: "For, if one glimpsed the sky and the terrain even a little, this glass would not change the apparent size of the sun, because one would judge it to be more distant than the terrain which one saw dimly."

Kaufman and Rock suggest that if the illusion is defined in terms of size constancy, one must conclude that it is based on the smaller appearance of the zenith moon. While neither moon, horizon, nor zenith would be perceived as equal in size to a disk approximately 2162 miles in diameter at the earth's surface, the illusion can be eliminated most easily by procedures which reduce the apparent size of the horizon moon.

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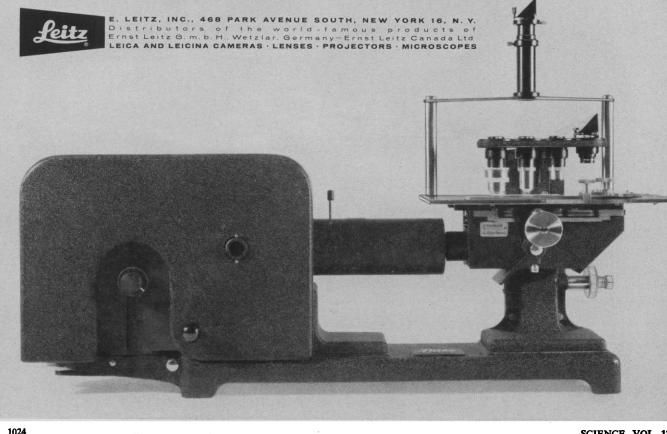


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Stability and Change

Over the past 15 years it has been emerging with increasing clarity and force that the communication of information is as centrally important in nature as it is between men.

When a virus invades a cell it introduces a packet of chemically coded genetic information, so unambiguous and dictatorial that it may completely reorganize the previous contents of the cell in strict accordance with the imported message. When the cells of an organism divide, the continuing genetic integrity of the whole depends upon the essentially errorless transmission of the information coded onto the DNA molecules. The capacity of an organism to recognize itself depends upon immunological messages which we do not now understand in any detail, but which are certainly both intricate and precise.

Over the very long haul nature requires, for the evolutionary process, that infrequent slips occur. The mutated messages almost always turn out to contain useless misspellings which nature wisely discards. Only once in a very great while is a good new word formed.

In his lovely book, *The Ideas of Biology*, John Tyler Bonner has suggested that the reason why nature utilizes the nucleic acids in the storing and transmission of information is that they are chemically stable and hence cause "relatively few errors or changes."

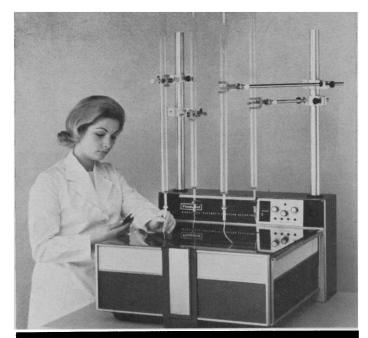
Man seems to be much more careless about preserving the integrity of his inter-communication. Lawyers, especially in their terms of art, and scientists, in their use of a precise and well-defined vocabulary, appear to be the chief guardians of verbal and syntactical stability. For all others, the modern idea seems to be that "language is a living, growing, thing"; and growth in all directions, including downwards toward the low level of the street, apparently seems entirely acceptable to many.

One must grant that language is alive and evolving. Human words should change occasionally, but I think that at the best these mutations are the result of the radiant effect of poetic imagination or the responses to new necessities. It does seem reasonable to hope that new words should not be accredited merely because they are used by substantial numbers of careless, lazy, or ignorant persons.

Indeed, should we not protest in general against current trends towards more and more sloppiness with words and with grammar?

I want to make a plea for the older editions of Fowler's *English* Usage; for Strunk's *The Elements of Style*; for the continued use of the subjunctive mood; for the universal use of a comma before the final "and" in a series of listed items; and for all those similar rules of established grammatical virtue which have of late been scorned by so many.

I would enjoy adding comments about the newly revised Webster. But Science must be sent through the mail.—WARREN WEAVER, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Rockefeller Center, New York.



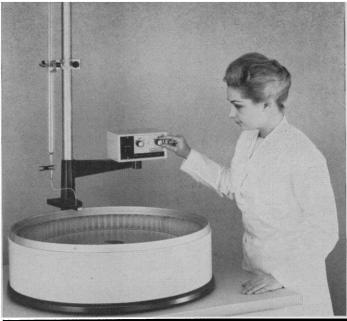
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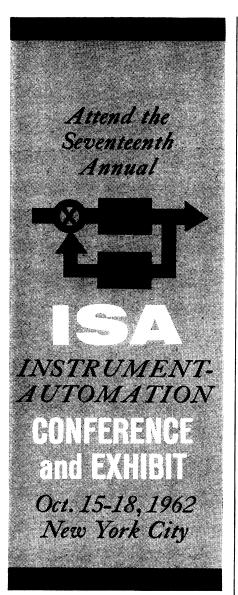


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trist, Veterans Administration Mental Hygiene Clinic, Los Angeles, 1948, Good Samaritan Hospital, 1948-49, Mt. Sinai Hospital, 1955-58, Compton Sanatorium, 1955-58, Edgemont Hospital, 1956-58; medical director, American Psychiatric Association, 1958-62; Fulbright research scholar, University of Groningen, Netherlands, 1962-63; editor-in-chief, Mental Hospitals, 1958-62; consultant and lecturer, Department of Neuropsychiatry, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 1958-; special professional lecturer, George Washington University Medical School, 1962-; member, Editorial Board, Excerpta Medica, 1953-56; member, Board of Directors, American Society of Mental Hospital Administrators, Business 1959-62.

AAAS activities: member, Council, 1958-.

Kenneth C. Spengler

Kenneth C. Spengler, 47 (meteorology), statistician, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 1937-38; accountant, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, 1938-40; secretary, Weather Research Center, U.S. Air Force, 1941; chief, Climatological and Forecast Verification Sections, Air Weather Service, 1942-43; chief, Weather Central, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, 1944-45; deputy chief, Research and Development Division, Headquarters Air Weather Service, 1945-46; executive secretary, American Meteorological Society, 1946-; member, Harvard Visiting Committee (Blue Hill Observatory), 1951-59; member, Advisory Committee on Weather Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1953-54; member, National Advisory Committee on Weather Control, 1953-58; member, Board of Directors, National Federation Science Abstracting and Indexing Services, 1959-.

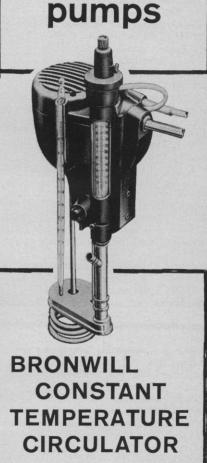
AAAS activities: member, Council, 1949-; member, Council Agenda and Resolutions Committee, 1958–60; member, Committee on Council Affairs, 1961.

Forthcoming Events

October

29. Vacuum Microbalance Techniques, symp., Los Angeles, Calif. (Cahn Instrument Co., 15505 Minnesota Ave., Paramount, Calif.)

29-30. Large Rockets, natl., Sacramento, Calif. (Inst. of the Aerospace Sciences, 2 E. 64 St., New York 21)



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A DIVISION OF WILL SCIENTIFIC, INC. 1409 N. GOODMAN ST, ROCHESTER 3, N.Y. SCIENCE, VOL. 137 29-31. Domestic and Industrial Water Supply, conf., Klagenfurt, Austria. (Österreichischer Wasserwirtschaftsverband, Graven 17, Vienna I, Austria)

29-31. Dynamics of Manned Lifting Planetary Entry, symp., Philadelphia, Pa. (A. C. Harrison, Room 1308M, General Electric Co., Valley Forge Space Technology Center, P.O. Box 8555, Philadelphia 1)

29-31. Entomological Soc. of Canada --Entomological Soc. of Manitoba, annual, Winnipeg, Manitoba. (L. L. Reed, K. W. Neatby Bldg., Carling Ave., Ottawa, Ont., Canada)

29-31. Society of **Rheology**, Baltimore, Md. (J. C. Miller, Union Carbide Plastics Co., Bound Brook, N.J.)

29-1. American **Dental** Assoc., Miami Beach, Fla. (H. Hillenbrand, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11, Ill.)

29-2. American Soc. for Metals, natl. congr. and intern. exposition, New York, N.Y. (M. A. Scheil, A. O. Smith Corp., Milwaukee, Wis.)

29-2. Basic Environmental Problems of Man in Space, symp., Paris, France. (A. R. Weiller, Intern. Acad. of Astronautics, 12 rue de Gramont, Paris 2^e)

29-2. National **Safety** Council, annual congr., Chicago, Ill. (R. L. Forney, NSC, 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11)

29-19. International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, Seattle, Wash. (INPFC, 209 Wesbrook Bldg., Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, B.C., Canada)

30-31. Spaceborne Computer Engineering Technology, natl. conf., Anaheim, Calif. (W. C. Chambliss, California Computer Products, Inc., 8714 E. Cleta St., Downey, Calif.)

31–2. Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, interscience conf., Chicago, Ill. (American Soc. for Microbiology, 19875 Mack Ave., Detroit 36, Mich.)

31-3. American Vacuum Soc., annual symp., Los Angeles, Calif. (G. H. Bancroft, Consolidated Vacuum Corp., 1775 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester 3, N.Y.)

31–3. Neurological Surgeons, congr., Houston, Tex. (E. Weiford, 4706 Broadway, Kansas City 12, Mo.)

31-3. Non-Proprietary Names for **Pharmaceutical Preparations**, Geneva, Switzerland. (World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva)

November

1-2. Alkaline **Pulping** Conf., Savannah, Ga. (Technical Assoc. of the Pulp and Paper Industry, 360 Lexington Ave., New York 17)

1-2. Chemtronics, conf., New York, N.Y. (E. C. Torkelson, Bell Telephone Laboratory, 463 West St., New York)

1-2. Educational Conf., annual, New York, N.Y. (A E. Traxler, Educational Records Bureau, 21 Audubon Ave., New York 32)

1-2. **Kidney**, annual conf., Princeton, N.J. (National Kidney Disease Foundation, 145 E. 35 St., New York 16)

1-2. Medical Practice Management, 1st annual conf., Las Vegas, Nev. (Soc. of Professional Business Consultants, 420 Madison Theatre Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.) 1-2. Product Engineering and Produc-

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tion, natl. conf., San Francisco, Calif. (H. R. Traver, Hewlett-Packard Co., 1501 Page Mill Rd., Palo Alto, Calif.) 1-3. American Chemical Soc., annual southeastern regional meeting, Gatlinburg, Tenn. (F. A. Griffitts, Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn.)

1-3. Delayed Effects of **Captivity**, intern. medical congr., Brussels, Belgium. (R. Laumond, Intern. Confederation of Former Prisoners of War, 46 rue Copernic, Paris 16°, France)

2-3. American **Geophysical** Union, regional meeting, Seattle, Wash. (F. A. Richards, Dept. of Oceanography, University of Washington, Seattle)

2-3. Fat as a Tissue, intern. research

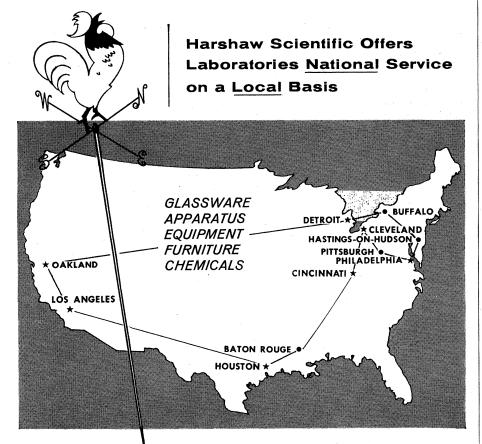
conf., Philadelphia, Pa. (Division of Research, Medical Science Bldg., Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia 51)

4-7. Engineering in Biology and Medicine, annual conf., Chicago, Ill. (Program Committee, P.O. Box 1475, Evanston, Ill.)

4-9. American Acad. of **Ophthalmology** and **Otolaryngology**, Las Vegas, Nev. (W. L. Benedict, 15 Second St., SW, Rochester, Minn.)

4-10. Interamerican **Red Cross** Conf., San Juan, Puerto Rico. (American Natl. Red Cross, 17 St. between D and E Sts., NW, Washington, D.C.)

5-7. American Soc. for Cell Biology, annual, San Francisco, Calif. (ASCB, Box



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5-7. Protection against **Radiation** Hazards in Space, symp., Gatlinburg, Tenn. (E. P. Blizard, Oak Ridge Natl. Laboratory, P.O. Box X, Oak Ridge, Tenn.)

5–9. American Inst. of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum **Engineers**, fall meeting, Chicago, Ill. (Executive Secretary, AIME, 345 E. 47 St., New York 17)

5-9. German Ceramics Soc., annual, Baden-Baden. (Deutsche Keramische Gesellschaft, Menzenbergerstr. 47, Bad Honnef am Rhein, Germany)

5-9. Metallurgical Congr., intern., Chicago, Ill. (C. Wells, American Soc. for Metals, 7301 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio)

5–9. Practical Applications of Short-Lived **Radioisotopes** Produced in Small Research Reactors, seminar, Vienna, Austria. (Intern. Atomic Energy Agency, 11 Kärntner Ring, Vienna 1)

5-17. World Meteorological Organization, South-West Pacific Regional Assoc., Noumea, New Caledonia. (Secretariat, WMO, Geneva, Switzerland)

7-10. Acoustical Soc. of America, Seattle, Wash. (W. Waterfall, Amer. Inst. of Physics, 335 E. 45 St., New York 17)

7-10. Corrosion of Metals, symp., Kanpur, India. (Defense Research Laboratory, Kanpur)

7-10. Fetal and Infant Liver Function and Structure, conf., New York, N.Y. (E. T. Minor, New York Acad. of Sciences, 2 E. 63 St., New York 21)

7-10. Geological Soc. of America, Houston, Tex. (F. Betz, Jr., GSA, 419 W. 117 St., New York, N.Y.)

8-9. Operations Research Soc. of America, Philadelphia, Pa. (G. D. Shellard, New York Life Insurance Co., 51 Madison Ave., New York 10)

8-10. American Soc. of **Cytology** (formerly Inter-Soc. Cytology Council), annual, St. Louis, Mo. (P. A. Younge, 1101 Beacon St., Brookline 46, Mass.)

Beacon St., Brookline 46, Mass.) δ -10. Gerontological Soc., Miami Beach, Fla. (R. W. Kleemeier, Dept. of Psychology, Washington Univ., St. Louis, Mo.)

8–13. International Office of Epizootics, American regional conf., Mexico City, Mexico. (R. Vittoz, 12 rue du Prony, Paris 17°, France)

9-8. Dec. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, general conf., Paris, France. (UNESCO, Place de Fontenoy, Paris 7°)

11-16. World Medical Assoc., general assembly, New Delhi, India. (L. H. Bauer, 10 Columbus Circle, New York 19)

11-17. Veterinary Medicine, Pan American congr., Mexico City, Mexico. (J. Santivanez, P.O.B. 1697, Coral Gables 34, Fla.)

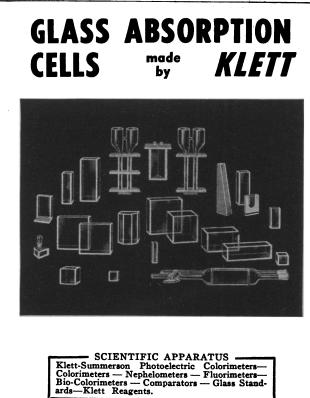
11-22. Plastics, intern. fair and convention, Göteborg, Sweden. (Interfair, Inc. AB, Intern. Trade Fair, S. Tullgatan 4, Malmö C, Sweden)

12-13. Genetics Symp., Columbia, Mo. (Director, Postgraduate Medical Education, M176 Medical Center, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia)

12-14. Paleontological Soc., Houston, Tex. (H. B. Whittington, MCZ, Harvard Univ., Cambridge 38, Mass.)

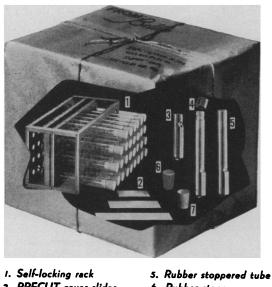
12-15. Magnetism and Magnetic Materials, conf., Pittsburgh, Pa. (Inst. of

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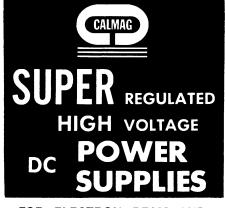
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16-17. American Mathematical Soc., Tallahassee, Fla. (AMS, 190 Hope St., Providence 6, R.I.)

16-17. Communications, symp., Montreal, P.Q., Canada. (A. B. Oxley, Cana-dian IRE Symp. on Communications, Box 802, Station B, Montreal)

17. American Mathematical Soc., Los Angeles, Calif. (AMS, 190 Hope St., Providence 6, R.I.)

18-21. American Speech and Hearing Assoc., New York, N.Y. (K. O. Johnson, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington 6)

18-21. Brain Mechanisms for External Inhibition (closed meeting), Los Angeles, Calif. [Air Force Office of Scientific Re-

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Gare, Mantes, S.-et-O., France) 20. Manufacturing **Chemists'** Assoc., mid-year conf., New York, N.Y. (MCA, 1825 Connecticut Are., NW, Washington 9)

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22-24. Central Assoc. of Science and Mathematics Teachers, St. Louis, Mo. (J. Kennedy, Indiana State College, Terre Haute)

22-24. National Council for Geographic Education, Chicago, Ill. (L. Kennamer, Univ. of Texas, Austin)

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24-25. American College of Chest Physicians, Los Angeles, Calif. (ACCP, 112 E. Chestnut St., Chicago 11, Ill.)

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