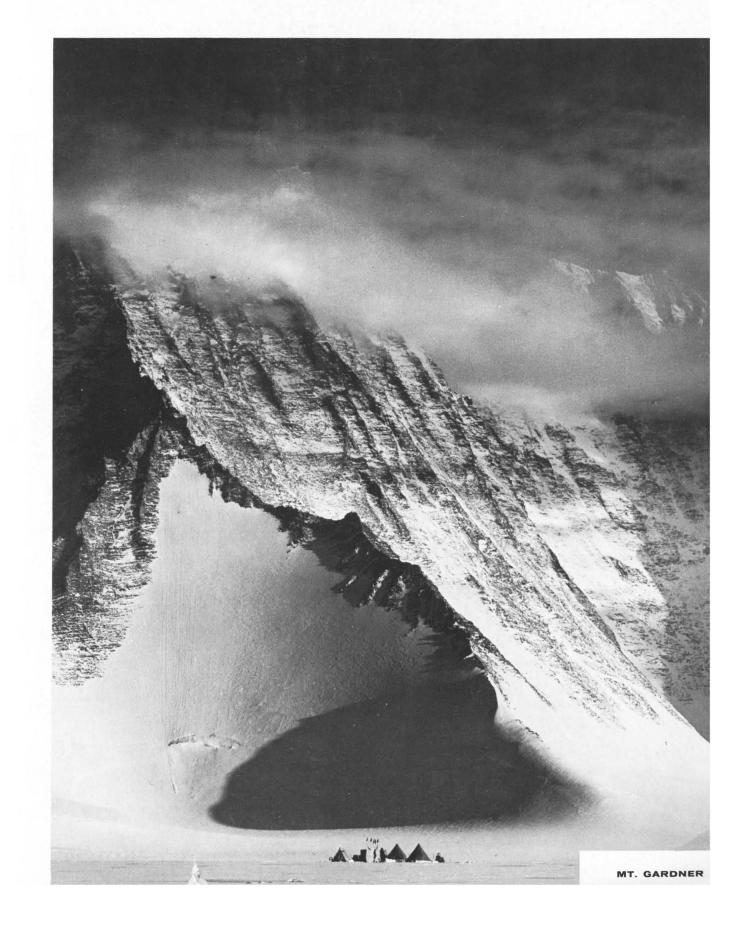
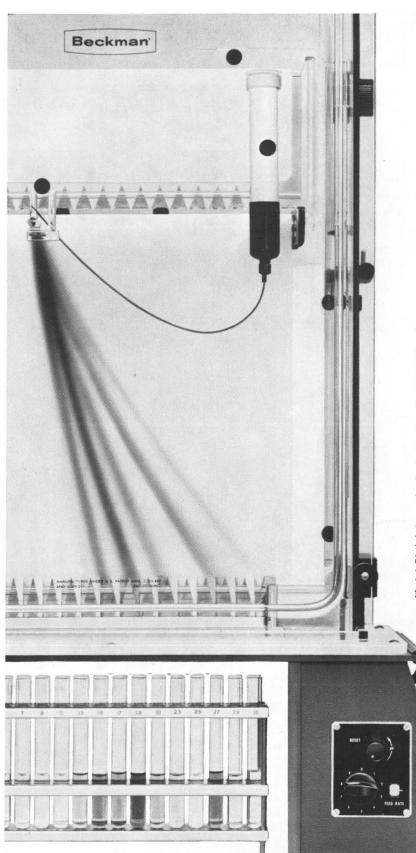
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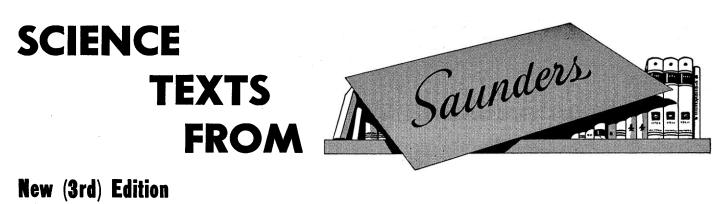
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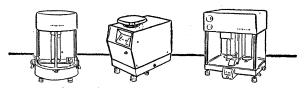
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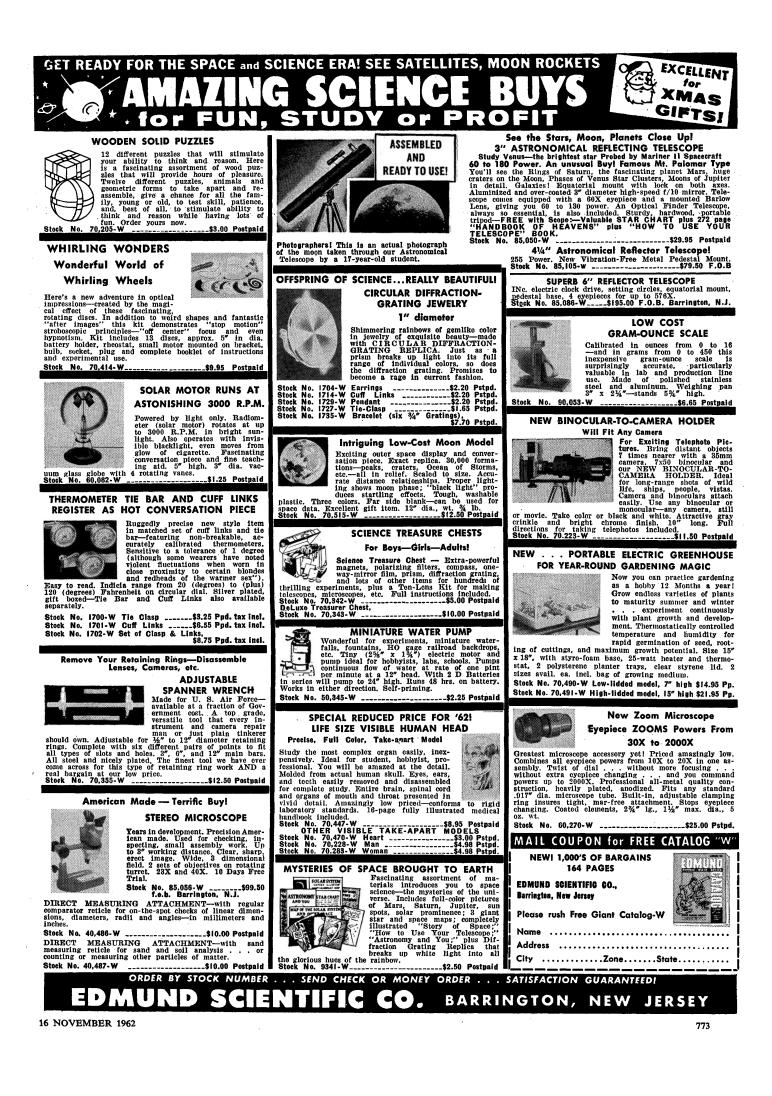
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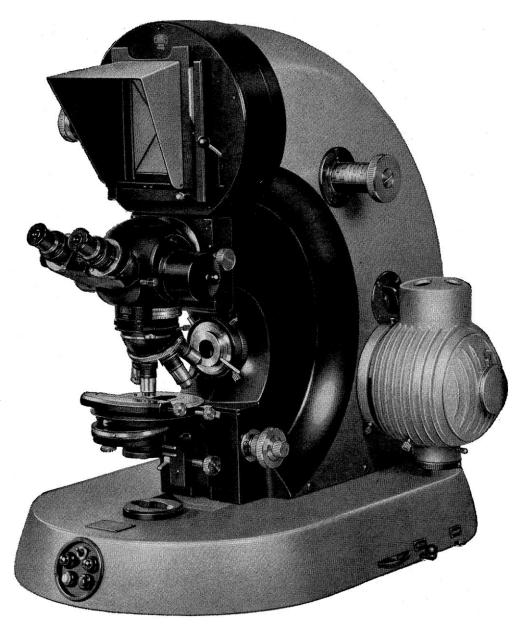
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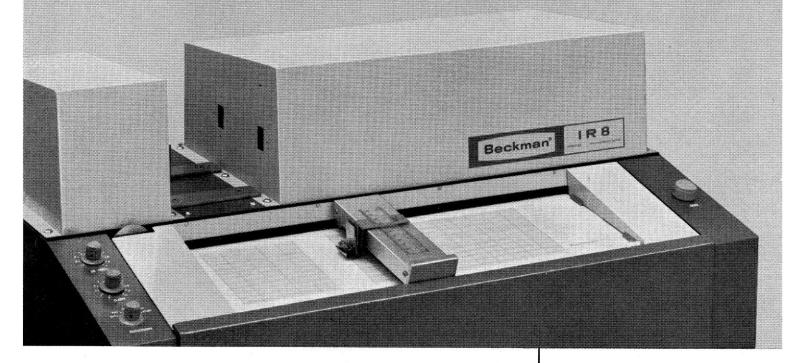


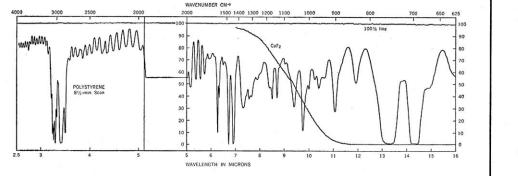
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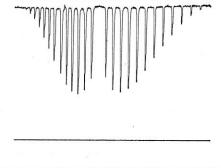
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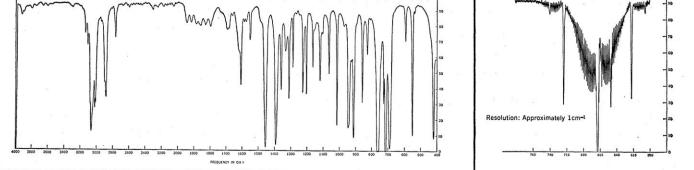
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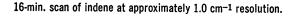


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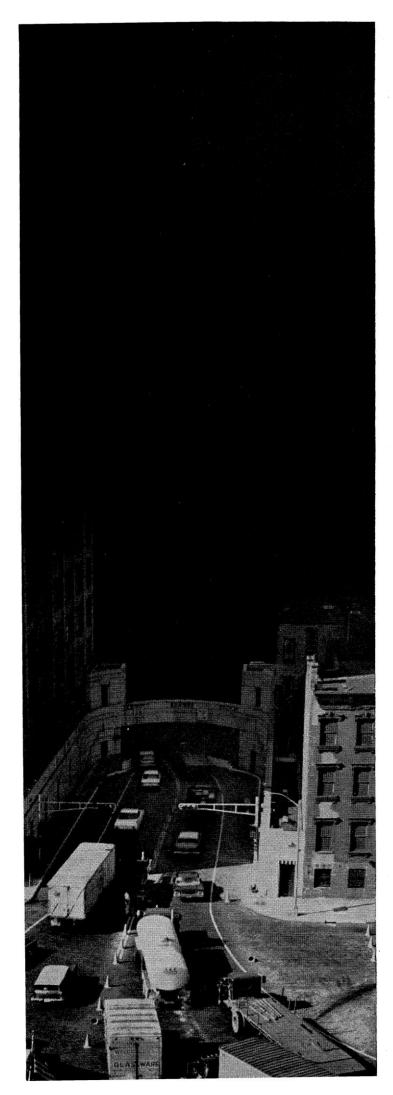
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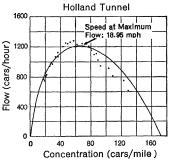
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16 November 1962, Volume 138, Number 3542

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Who Teaches Science?

The AAAS Cooperative Committee on the Teaching of Science and Mathematics-a committee consisting of representatives of scientific societies and societies interested in the teaching of science and mathematics-in 1960 published its recommendations for the preparation of high school science and mathematics teachers [Science 131, 1024 (1960)]. The timing was excellent, for the recommendations served as a basic document at several subsequent conferences on the education of teachers and laid much of the groundwork for a study carried out by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification. The association with the long name-NASDTEC for short-consists of the persons, usually one per state, responsible for certifying public school teachers in their states. Their report follows that of the Cooperative Committee in placing much emphasis upon better education in the disciplines to be taught. The full impact of this recent report is yet to come, but already its recommendations for the education of teachers have been adopted by 110 colleges and universities and by four states. Adoption in others is expected, for the report has been formally endorsed by appropriate educational groups or agencies in 15 of the 50 states.

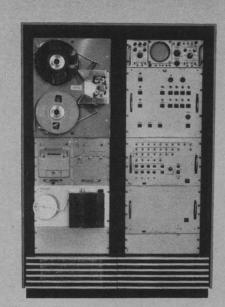
But there is a substantial gap between what is desirable and what is. NASDTEC, again in cooperation with the AAAS, has made clear the size of this gap through a second study which analyzes the education of a statistically good sample of all teachers of science and mathematics in the public and private high schools of the nation. (The full report will be published by the National Science Foundation.) The most striking finding is the contrast between the general educational level of these teachers and their education in the specific fields taught. Essentially all have bachelor's degrees, and 39 percent have master's degrees. But the amount of work in the subjects taught is disproportionately small. The data are best expressed in terms of classes rather than teachers, for some teachers (often those with least preparation) have only one or two classes, while others have five or six. Here are the findings:

> Percentage of classes taught by teachers whose total hours of college credit in the subject taught is—

			,				
Classes		Fe	wer than 9	9-17	18–29	30 or more	
Biology			8	13	22	57	
Chemistry			14	20	32	34	
Physics			23	43	20	14	
Mathematics	(grades	9–12)	11	12	32	45	
Mathematics	(grades	7–8)	34	19	26	21	

An individual teacher with 30 hours in his field is not necessarily better than another individual with only 10. But, in general, 30 hours is surely better preparation than 10. Yet only in biology does a student have better than a 50-50 chance of being taught by a teacher who has had 30 hours of college work in the science being taught.

This latter study provides the most detailed information yet available on the subject-matter preparation of America's high school science and mathematics teachers. The earlier study means that many scientists and the responsible educational authorities have agreed upon desirable amounts of subject-matter education for future teachers. Together, the studies provide the basis for action, action that has already started in some states. We salute NASDTEC for wanting to carry out these studies. We are glad that AAAS was able to help—D.W.



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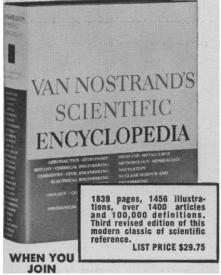
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perivascular collagen fibers. Zucker, referring to the studies of Hugues, reported that when purified collagen fibers were added to citrated plateletrich plasma, platelet aggregates rapidly appeared along the surfaces of the fibers. In this case platelet serotonin and factor 3 were not released, but "fusion" of the platelet aggregates occurred. Collagen fibers induce only weak agglutination of washed platelets. It is not known whether a cation is necessary for these reactions. Polybrene, a synthetic polysaccharide macromolecule, closely resembles collagen fibers in its action on platelets.

Endotoxins. McKay and Des Prez each described the platelet agglutinating activity of bacterial endotoxin. These two investigators used different endotoxin preparations. The induction of platelet agglutination by endotoxins is well illustrated by the generalized Shwartzman reaction, in which the intravenous injection of endotoxin into a previously sensitized recipient produces white thrombi primarily in the lungs, liver, and spleen but not in the kidney. If a second injection of endotoxin is given, thrombi are then formed in the kidney. McKay reported that injection of endotoxin was followed by a fall in platelet, leukocyte, and fibrinogen levels and a decrease in wholeblood clotting time. Apparently endotoxin in some way initiates in vivo thrombin production, with subsequent agglutination of platelets and thrombus formation. Special comment was made concerning the work of Lee and others, who have shown that if the sensitized recipient's reticuloendothelial system is first blocked by injection of denatured albumin, Thorotrast, or cortisone, the first injection of endotoxin produces thrombi in the kidney as well as in the lung, liver, and spleen. This was interpreted by various participants at the conference to mean that the reticuloendothelial system may play an important role in the prevention of intravascular thrombosis.

How does endotoxin initiate thrombus formation? There was no agreement on this question, but the possibility that the induction of platelet agglutination by endotoxin is mediated through thrombin formation was discussed. Des Prez showed that the addition of endotoxin alone to plateletrich plasma produces platelet agglutination with subsequent "fusion," and release of platelet serotonin and factor 3. The same changes in plateletrich plasma can be initiated by the ad-

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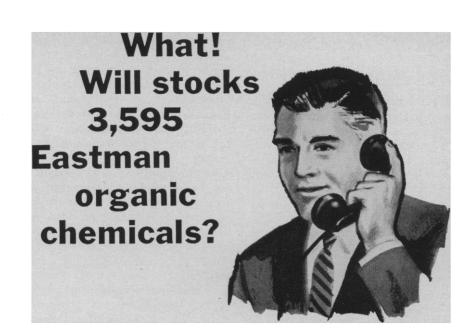
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dition of endotoxin-antibody complexes. A better understanding of the mechanism of action of endotoxin may be attained through future tests with plasmas deficient in antibodies to endotoxin. It appears that platelets, or some other source of thromboplastin, are necessary for the coagulant action of endotoxin. However, a direct action of endotoxin on platelets was not demonstrated. The importance of understanding these problems is apparent, since syndromes similar to the generalized Shwartzman reaction can be induced by vitamin E deficiency in pregnancy, by certain diets, or by injection of such diverse agents as tissue thromboplastin, placenta, trypsin, some snake venoms, and various types of organic and inorganic particulate matter.

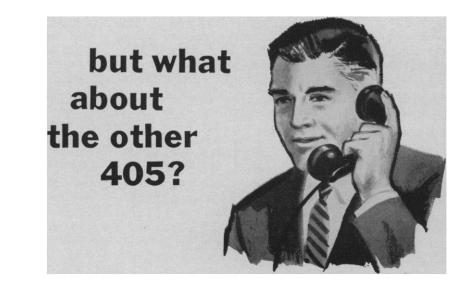
Prevention of Thrombosis

The prevention of thrombosis has long been the dream of clinician and research worker alike. There is ample proof that coumarin derivatives lower the plasma levels of prothrombin and certain other procoagulants. Heparin not only inhibits the generation of thrombin but blocks the action of thrombin on fibrinogen. Recently, numerous questions concerning the efficacy of coumarin and heparin therapy in the prevention of thrombosis have prompted investigators to study the effects of these agents on platelet agglutination. Both Berman and Borchgrevink reported that neither coumarin agents nor heparin, in the usual therapeutic dose, prevent the formation of hemostatic thrombi. On the other hand, Mustard reported that heparin, but not coumarin derivatives, prevents the formation of thrombi in extracorporeal shunts.

Mason and Brinkhous reported that coumarin derivatives, when given in doses within the usual clinical dose range, do not abolish the in vitro generation of platelet agglutinating activity of plasma. Such hypoprothrombinemic plasma can still generate sufficient thrombin to induce rapid platelet agglutination. On the other hand, heparin over a wide range of concentrations not only inhibited the generation of thrombin in plasma but also blocked the agglutination of platelets by preformed thrombin. Zucker reported that heparin has little effect on the agglutination of platelets induced by collagen fibers. Perhaps a more thorough understanding of the sequence of reactions



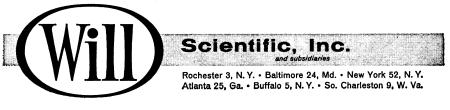
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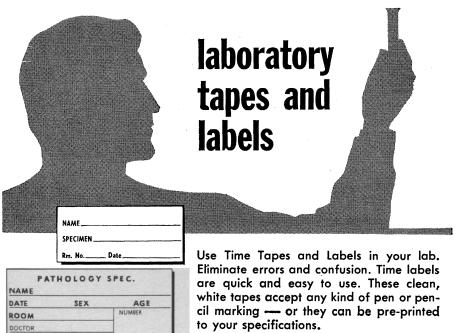
leading to platelet agglutination and thrombus formation will permit the development of new anticoagulants. It was suggested that anticoagulants might be found with sufficient specificity of action to inhibit pathologic platelet agglutination but leave physiologic agglutination mechanisms intact.

There was one final subject of discussion: What causes platelets to adhere to one another when agglutination occurs? There are indications that several of the agents known to induce platelet agglutination may mediate their action through thrombin. The action of other agents, such as ADP, thrombocyte agglutinating factor, and collagen fibers, cannot at present be explained in this manner. Indeed, it has been suggested that thrombin merely causes the release of ADP from platelets and that only then does platelet agglutination occur. Waugh proposed several possible mechanisms or models for platelet agglutination. In one model a platelet agglutinating agent such as thrombin would act to produce hiatuses in the platelet membrane by removing a single molecular species. This would render the membrane unstable, and molecules from the interior of the platelet would be at-

tracted to these hiatuses. These molecules, since they differ from the molecular species originally present, would be unable to stabilize the membrane and would simply continue to congregate at the membrane surface. Eventually this process would lead to the formation of pseudopods, one of the earliest morphologic changes observed in the agglutination process. In another model a platelet agglutinating agent would act upon the platelet membrane either to remove or to rearrange structurally certain molecules. In this manner new electrical charges would be uncovered which could participate in binding platelets together. It is conceivable that these two processes operate simultaneously. Other molecules, released perhaps from the interior of the platelet, along with cations from the plasma, could form the bridges which would link adjacent membranes together. At present all of this is only educated speculation, but herein lies the challenge.

Note

Special presentations at the conference were made by H. J. Berman, C. F. Borchgrevink, K. M. Brinkhous, R. K. Cannan, A. B. Chandler, H. Cottier, R. M. Des Prez, R. L. Henry, D. P. Jackson, R. G. Mason, Jr., D. G. McKay, J. F. Mustard, N. F. Rod-man, Jr., and M. B. Zucker.



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December

11-14. American Documentation Inst., Hollywood-by-the-Sea, Fla. (J. B. Kaiser, 1718 N St., NW, Washington 6)

12-14. American Soc. of Agricultural Engineers, Chicago, Ill. (J. L. Butt, P.O. Box 229, St. Joseph, Mich.)

17-20. International Arms Control, symp., Ann Arbor, Mich. (IACS, P.O. Box 1106, Ann Arbor)

17-21. University Physics Teaching Curricula, Laboratory Experiments, and Equipment in UNESCO member states, comparative survey, Paris, France. (UNESCO, Place de Fontenoy, Paris 7°) 26-31. American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, annual, Philadel-

phia, Pa. (R. L. Taylor, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5)

The following 40 organizations will meet in conjunction with the AAAS annual meeting in Philadelphia:

Academy of Psychoanalyisis. (A. H. Rifkin, 125 E. 65 St., New York 21)

American Assoc. of Clinical Chemists. (P. Paubionsky, Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, Pa.)

American Astronautical Soc. (J. G. Stephenson, Airborne Instruments Laboratory, Walt Whitman Rd., Melville, L.I., N.Y.)

American Economic Assoc. (H. F. Williamson, AEA, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, Ill.)

American Geophysical Union. (W. E. Smith, AGU, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5)

American Meteorological Soc. (F. Sergent, II, Dept. of Physiology, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana)

American Nature Study Soc. (J. A. Gustafson, Route #1, Homer, N.Y.)

American Physiological Soc. (R. E. Smith, School of Medicine, Univ. of California, Los Angeles)

American Political Science Assoc. (E. M. Kirkpatrick, APSA, 1726 Massachu-setts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.)

American Psychiatric Assoc. (M. Greenblatt, Massachusetts Mental Health Center. Boston)

American Rocket Soc. (B. Chifos, ARS,

American Soc. of Criminology. (J. Chwast, New York Inst. of Criminology, 115–117 W. 42 St., New York 36)

American Soc. of Naturalists. (W. K. Baker, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Chicago, Chicago 37, Ill.)

American Soc. of Zoologists. (R. L. Watterson, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana)

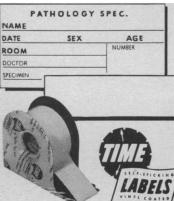
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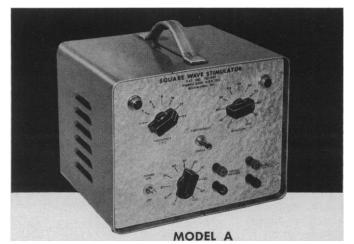
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