

the review, which was in preparation for publication, and thus what had started out as a misunderstanding became a cause célèbre, in which the issues were still further clouded. Finally, the review itself, in an extended form, was published in the *Scientific American* ["A debatable account of the origin of races," *Sci. Am.* **208**, No. 2, 169 (1963)].

In investigating the whole affair I realized that, although I have reviewed for literary as well as for scientific journals all my professional life and would never send a review intended for a literary journal to anyone before its publication, nevertheless I had never articulated this rule.

As science comes closer to public issues and as scientists are asked to come out of their ivory towers of scientific reviewing, with its particular rules of scientific courtesy, it will be useful to remember that different sets of rules apply to the two kinds of reviewing. This is the more important in situations where technical difficulties may, quite unnecessarily, add fuel to the fires of legitimate controversy.

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Whales and Cows: Stomach Capacity

In the book review of *Whales* by E. J. Slijper [*Science* **140**, 166 (12 Apr. 1963)] it is stated in the center of column 3 that "the stomach of a domestic cow does not hold 55 gallons." Apparently there was much in Slijper's book to criticize, but the accuracy of this particular statement is not one of them.

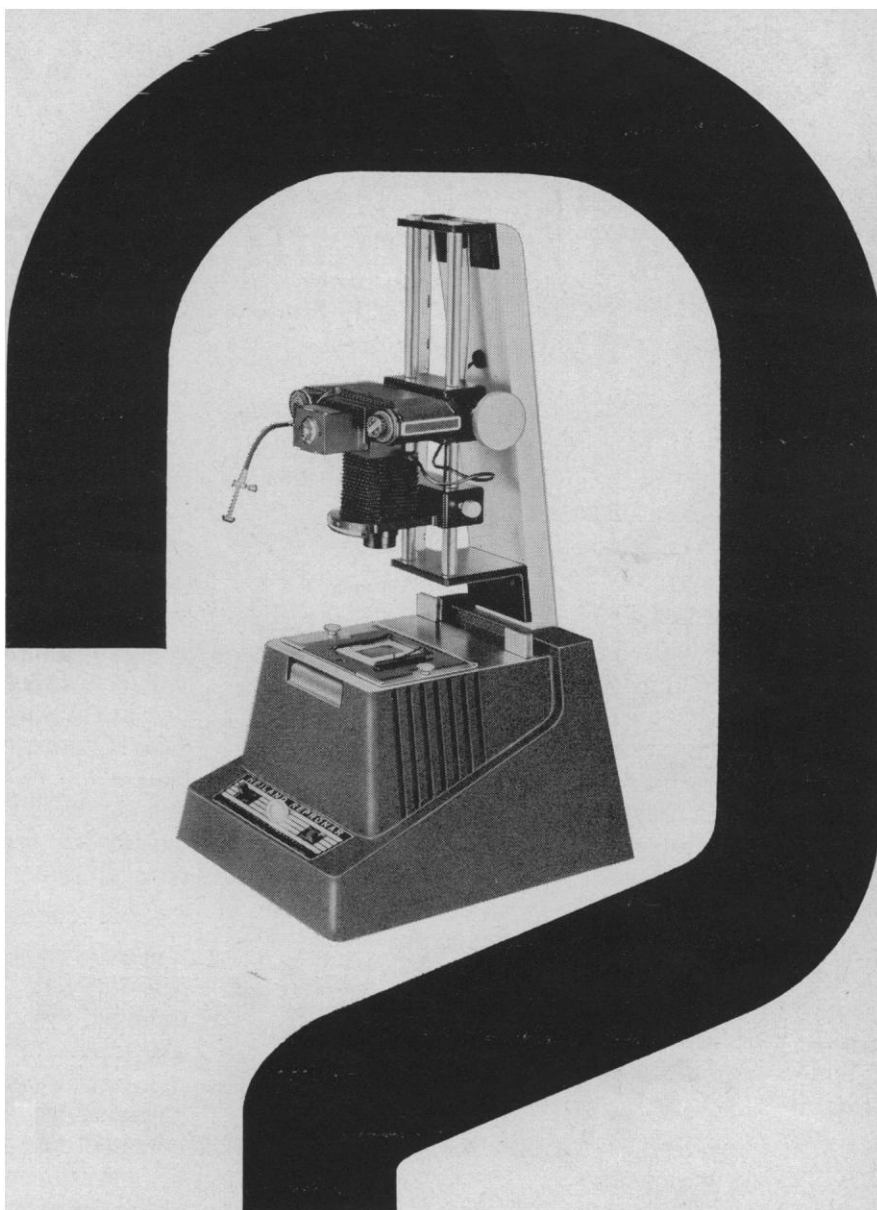
The stomach of the cow may be considered to consist of four parts: the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. According to Sisson and Grossman in *Anatomy of the Domestic Animals*: "The capacity of the stomach varies greatly depending on the age and size of the animal. In cattle of medium size it holds 30 to 40 gallons, in large animals 40 to 60, in small 25 to 35."

A critical review is a worthwhile contribution. However, a reviewer can do himself discredit as well as the author if he is inaccurate or hypercritical.

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