

port because theories give us command of knowledge whether we choose to use the knowledge in practical applications or in the advancement of science. A quick review of the history of physics, chemistry, or biology will support this contention.

Within theoretical science are those men whose genius and drive permit them to build the frameworks of new incipient theories, new postulational-deductive systems. But who, in politics or in science, has the wit to recognize these men while they are in the early stages of formulating their ideas? Probably only a few other scientists and these men are seldom in a position to grant financial support. The greatest problem in the support of science is not whether you support basic or applied science, but rather, how do you support truly theoretical work?

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A Tax-Saving Spin Off

In his contribution to contemporary etymology, Hines (Letters, 12 Aug.) deals successfully with the origins of *A-OK* and *blast off*, but fails with *spin off*, which he suspects is a NASA substitution for *fallout*.

I hasten to inform you that *spin off* has long meant a specific legal corporate fission process, followed when it is desirable to make two corporations out of one. It solves a genuine problem created by the capital gains tax. Some of the assets of the original corporation are *spun off* to the new. If a capital gains tax were assessed, that would be fallout from the fission.

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Touché

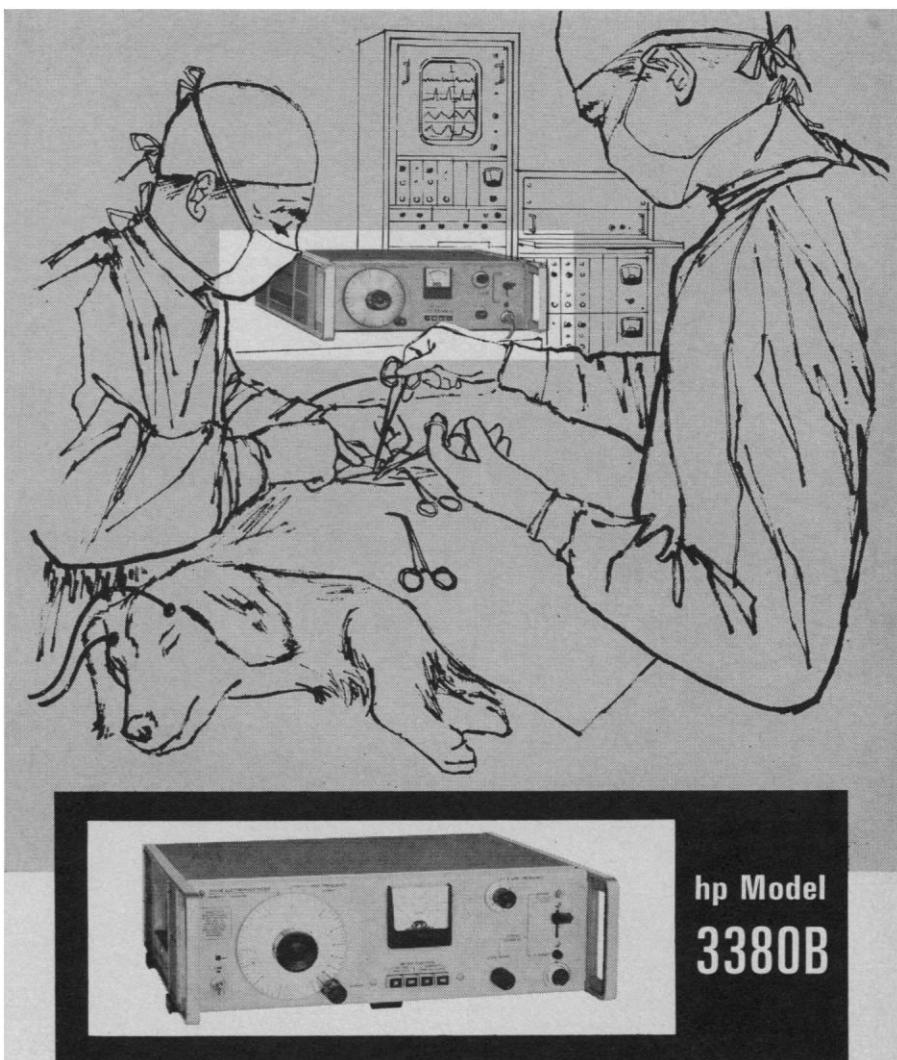
Non-nonwalking is something I enjoy, but only because I've had a college education. Otherwise, I would like plain walking.

In the same way, "nonincongruity" (Cover, 1 July) can be reduced to "congruity," a term respectable enough to be accepted in dictionaries. "Nonincongruity" seems to be a low character who has been justly ignored by lexicographers.

HELEN CHURCHILL

Hollins College, Virginia

7 OCTOBER 1966



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