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The Plastids

THEIR CHEMISTRY, STRUCTURE,
GROWTH, AND INHERITANCE

JOHN T. O. KIRK, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and RICHARD A. E. TILNEY-BASSETT, University of Wales, Swansea

"... An admirable job of assembling data and of summarizing the present state of this exciting field of cell biology. ..." Aharon Gabor, *Science*, September 8, 1967
1967, 608 pages, 140 illustrations, \$17.50

Physical Geodesy

WEIKKO A. HEISKANEN, Director, Iso-static Institute of the International Association of Geodesy, and HELMUT MORITZ, Technical University of Berlin

Theoretical in orientation and mathematical in approach, this book covers both standard topics and recent developments in the field. 1967, 364 pages, 112 illustrations, \$12.50

Quasi-Stellar Objects

GEOFFREY BURBIDGE and MARGARET BURBIDGE, University of California, San Diego

This monograph is a summary of the state of knowledge and speculation about quasi-stellar objects as of early 1967. 1967, 235 pages, 24 illustrations, \$7.50

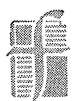
Materials, A SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN BOOK

Here is an authoritative up-to-date review of the new science and technology of materials, with special emphasis on the fundamental nature of materials and the properties shared by all of them in varying degrees. 1967, 212 pages, 79 illustrations, clothbound \$5.00, paperbound \$2.50

The Antecedents of Self-Esteem

STANLEY COOPERSMITH, University of California, Davis

This book is a summary and analysis of the findings of the most intensive study of self-esteem yet made by a psychologist—findings that challenge major theories of personality development. 1967, 285 pages, \$6.00



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switched to circling those I *did* know without recourse to an unabridged dictionary. Time after time I came up with only articles, prepositions, relative pronouns, auxiliary verbs, and a few modifiers such as "only" and "many." But for substantives, it was the old parlor game of "animal, vegetable, or mineral?"

The prize example was a description of experiments which my etymological research revealed hinged on the twitching of a cat's whiskers. I'm a cat lover; I recognized "felis," but I had to look up a dozen words to learn what had been done to puss and how she reacted. Why can't the editors, recognizing the broad base of *Science*, take on the task of interjecting, perhaps in the introductory abstract, an aside such as (Cat to you—Ed.)? This is not a frivolous suggestion. Every discipline has its own vocabulary, not to say jargon. An interdisciplinary magazine has a responsibility to make these disciplines somewhat more intelligible to each other.

The situation becomes serious now that the annual membership fee is to be raised. Why should a nuclear physicist, physical chemist, or mathematician pay the difference to help a biological scientist get into print with a report in which he cannot understand one word out of four? (Immunologists may well feel the same way about solid-state physics!)

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Disenfranchised AAAS Membership

The section entitled "Election of AAAS officers," (29 Sept., p. 1594) gives the initial impression that there is an election in which the membership of the AAAS is somehow involved. Yet a reading of the described electoral procedure reveals that only council members may vote, or in fact, nominate candidates. Since council members are themselves not elected by the membership, it is clear that ordinary AAAS members do not participate in this election at all. Why, therefore, is this disenfranchised membership given such detail about the nominees?

It seems to me that either this material might be omitted from *Science*, or the members of the AAAS ought to be given some direct share in the election. How about permitting mem-

bers to nominate officers upon suitable petition signed by, let us say, 100 members? Or how about having several "at-large" council members elected directly by the membership?

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Recorded Hearsay

Nelson's comments entitled "Privacy: how much need you tell a visiting federal investigator?" (29 Sept., p. 1539) moves me to relate my policy with regard to security investigators.

In 1941 an FBI agent (or was it a CSC agent?) asked me my evaluation of a student who was being considered for a research position in a federal military unit. I replied to his questions at some length, being rather flattered as a fledgling instructor that the government was seeking my advice! Incidentally, the student did get the position. In 1952, the same investigating agency sought me out to ask if I still agreed with the statements I had made over a decade before. I immediately asked what their record showed I had said in 1941. The agent explained that this was confidential information and that he was not at liberty to show it to me or to make any comments on it. Of course I told him that his inquiry was absurd. How could anyone comment on the veracity of a transcript of notes made by someone else a decade ago (who, at that time may or may not have recorded accurately my oral statements) without being given the opportunity to study the transcript.

Since that time when an FBI or CSC agent inquires my opinion or evaluation of a student or colleague, I explain that I will reply in writing to the questions he wishes to write out. If he agrees, I give him my reply and keep two carbon copies, one of which I generally send to the person in question. In this way I can be assured that the earlier incident will never happen to me again. Occasionally an agent will refuse to submit questions in this manner, saying that this defeats the purpose of the interview and the value of the results. Other agents comply with my requirements.

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