

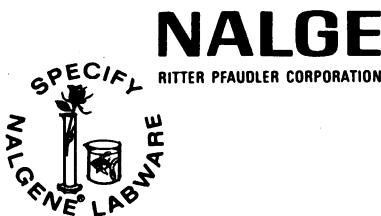


**NALGE...THE INNOVATORS  
IN THE PLASTIC LABWARE BUSINESS**

With new designs like the Nalgene® Unitary Wash Bottle. And new materials like our graduates and beakers of transparent TPX\*. And with a complete line.

That's probably why more labs specify Nalgene Labware than all other brands of plastic labware combined. See your lab supply dealer. Ask for our 1968 Catalog or write Dept. 27131, Nalgene Labware Division, Rochester, N. Y. 14602.

\*TPX is a trademark of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited for their brand of methylpentene polymer.



whether and what he dreamed, for "his dream" means a particular event known only to him. The knotty problem has always been to construct theory which coordinates the subject's observations with those of the other observers. Knowing more about what happens in the "black box" may be expected to shed light on this problem, but not to annihilate it.

SAM NELKEN  
2211 Post Street, Suite 1,  
San Francisco, California 94115

**Discriminating and Insulting**

In discussing openings for Negro engineers, Oliver's logic is so foggy, I simply cannot understand it (Letters, 1 Dec.). I am reminded that as a male librarian I am often interviewed because of that fact. Whenever this happens, I am seized by an irrational anger. . . . I cannot help but feel for the engineer who is hired because he happens to be a Negro. At best this is stupid; at worst, it is a grievous insult to the particular individual's intelligence and individuality. . . .

ROBERT G. CHESHIER  
Cleveland Health Sciences Library,  
11000 Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Oliver tells of a recruiting agent who, under government pressure was actively seeking Negroes, qualified or otherwise. Can anyone explain to me just how this differs from discrimination on account of color, a procedure declared illegal by act of Congress?

EARL W. PHELAN  
Department of Chemistry,  
Tusculum College,  
Greenville, Tennessee 37743

**Government Quickens Its  
Information Transfer**

Budington (Letters, 20 Oct.) complains that the slow process of obtaining results of Department of Defense-sponsored research discourages the belief that the government is much interested in information transfer. The Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information announces the availability of unclassified or unlimited government-sponsored (DOD, NASA, AEC, Commerce, and others) scientific and technical documents to the techni-

cal public and industry by means of a semimonthly abstract journal, *U.S. Government Research and Development Reports* and its companion index journal. Copies of the documents are sold to the public at a nominal cost.

Our recently improved processing system has eliminated the delays in filling orders. If the single price pre-paid coupon is used in making an order, our shipment is made in 2 to 4 days. Thus the Clearinghouse is a focal point in government for the dissemination of this information to the public.

HUBERT E. SAUTER

*Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific  
and Technical Information,  
Springfield, Virginia 22151*

### Thoreau's Dilemma

Henry David Thoreau is treated more often these days as a philosopher or poet than as a scientist. But in his own time, he was included in the latter category; at least the Secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Science tendered him a questionnaire asking him to designate his special field of scientific interest. This question was not so easily answered, however, as Thoreau makes plain in the following entry in his *Journal* (5 March 1853):

The Secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Science requests me, as he probably has thousands of others, by a printed circular letter from Washington the other day, to fill the blank against certain questions, among which the most important one was what branch of science I was specially interested in, using the term science in the most comprehensive sense possible. Now, though I could state to a select few that department of human inquiry which engages me, and should be rejoiced at an opportunity to do so, I felt that it would be to make myself the laughing-stock of the scientific community to describe or attempt to describe to them that branch of science which specially interests me, inasmuch as they do not believe in a science which deals with the higher law. So I was obliged to speak to their condition and describe to them that poor part of me which alone they can understand. The fact is I am a mystic, a transcendentalist, and a natural philosopher to boot. Now I think of it, I should have told them at once that I was a transcendentalist. That would have been the shortest way of telling them that they would not understand my explanations.

ELMER S. NEWMAN

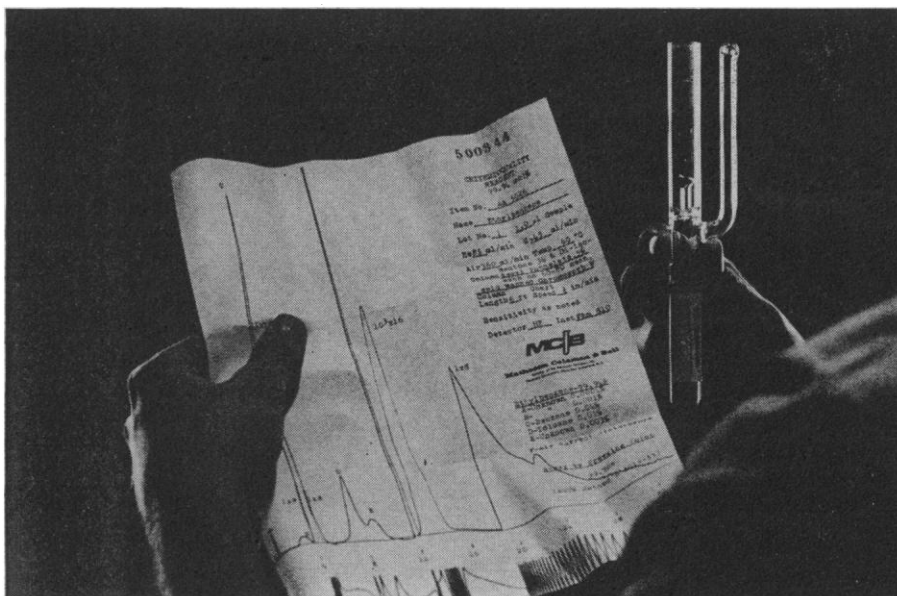
*Cleveland State University,  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115*

26 JANUARY 1968



**Usually it doesn't matter which  
brand you specify . . .**

**Unless you require  
absolute purity**



*If you want Organic Reference Standards with a minimum purity of 99.9 mol %, ask your MC&B Distributor for MC&B Criterioquality. Quality is monitored by gas chromatography throughout the purification process until no further increase in purity is noted. Then, purity is confirmed by a precise freezing point method. A lot chromatogram is supplied with each unit. Our Criterioquality line includes aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones, and other interesting compounds. There is no other commercially available line like it.*

**MC&B**

*Matheson, Coleman & Bell / Manufacturing Chemists  
Norwood, Ohio / Los Angeles, California / East Rutherford, N. J.*