

**For membrane  
filtrations—**



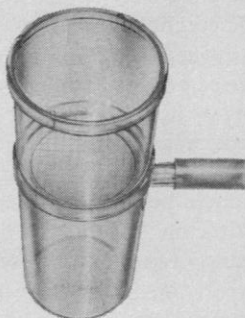
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ington, agency officials with decision powers (directors and associate directors) could stagger lunch and one could report to work an hour later to extend the day. This expedient alone recaptures 60 percent of the talk time lost by West Coast personnel and completely "covers" certain zones. At the present time it is a moot question whether the service which is provided to grantees suffers by this temporal disjunction and whether the gap actually influences communication with Washington.

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### When Found, Make a Note of . . .

Since 1961 I have doggedly kept exhaustive notebooks as an aid to memory. In them is everything, written down as it occurs: good ideas, bad ideas, plans for experiments, data from experiments, notes of what I read, and what I think. Each entry is dated with the exact time of the entry. Recently I have analyzed the time course of entries in the notebooks. I am astonished to discover regularities. For example, over the years the modal time between entries holds at 2 minutes, half of all entries are made within 1 hour of the previous entry, with about 1200 entries each year.

Many scientists keep comprehensive notes, but do others keep them so that an exact analysis of "ideas" by topics over time might be made? In the *Théorie Analytique de la Chaleur*, Fourier (1) noted that "primary causes are unknown to us; but are subject to simple and constant laws, which may be discovered by observation." Exact time notebooks permit a measurement of the scientific process through Fourier analysis.

I welcome communication from any of you who keep dated notes that would lend themselves to such an endeavor.

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### Reference

1. J. Fourier, *The Analytical Theory of Heat*, Freeman, Transl. (Dover, New York, 1955).

### McElroy Incident

The editors of *Science* saw fit to publish against my express wishes, emphasized to the author, Philip Boffey, but not cited by him, an article entitled "W. D. McElroy: An old incident embarrasses new NSF director" (25 July, p. 379). I trust you will afford me the courtesy of permitting me to deplore in print what I consider an uncalled for, inappropriate, and tasteless action on the part of *Science*.

The incident discussed was settled, I believe to the satisfaction of all concerned parties, 5 years ago. I accepted McElroy's apologies for his oversight then, and as Boffey acknowledges, I naturally still accept them. Boffey writes of concerned "scientists in England, who are close to the field of research involved" who are requesting "clarification of the matter." I hope that these persons, whose identity has not been divulged to me, together with Daniel S. Greenberg, the foreign editor of *Science* in London, will consider this letter adequate and final "clarification" of an incident that, in its restatement, does little credit to them, to Boffey, to the editors of *Science* or, indeed, to the advancement of science.

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Philip Boffey has given an accurate account of the McElroy-Smith episode insofar as I can remember, but I don't understand what possible point there was in resurrecting the business. The claim that "a few scientists in England, who are close to the field of research involved" are agitating for clarification sounds like nonsense because it is precisely we who are in the field who know that McElroy has never published a word of original research on firefly cytology and could not conceivably have been trying to represent himself as an expert in electron microscopy. As I told my good friend David Smith at the time, the incident was so clearly a bit of stupid and reprehensible, but honest, carelessness by a very busy guy that it could not possibly diminish Smith's own high standing among his informed colleagues.

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