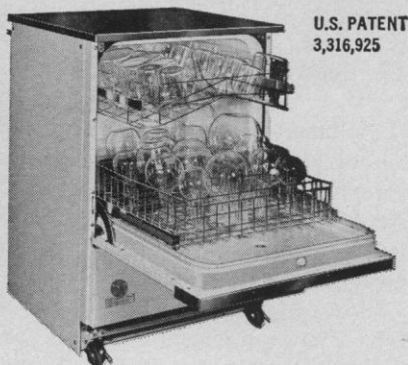


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It has been my experience that the meetings held on college and university campuses could not have been finer! To construct a "scientific center" of the sort Hoffman suggests, whether in the geographical heart of the country or elsewhere, would seem a tragic error in the direction of more and greater bureaucracy and the further sterilization of science—all at vast public expense. Moreover, we would lose the advantage of visiting many different educational centers where we taste the flavor of discovery and meet the men who are "discovering"—and who enjoy greeting us on their own home grounds.

GEORGE AVERY

*Brooklyn Botanic Garden,
Brooklyn, New York 11225*

Mistaken Identity

In my review of Günther Buttmann's biography of John Herschel (8 May, p. 731) I wrote "three out of four people who have heard of 'Herschel' at all will assume that you have confused the name of his father, William Herschel, and the fourth is himself not clear about the difference."

Your editor kindly added to my review two pictures of "the 40-foot telescope in John Herschel's garden at Slough." It is, of course, *William* Herschel's famous telescope, sitting in the garden after his death.

Thus we see that, contrary to the oft-repeated maxim, historical knowledge *can* be used for prediction. In experienced hands it is as accurate as meteorology—maybe more so.

WALTER F. CANNON

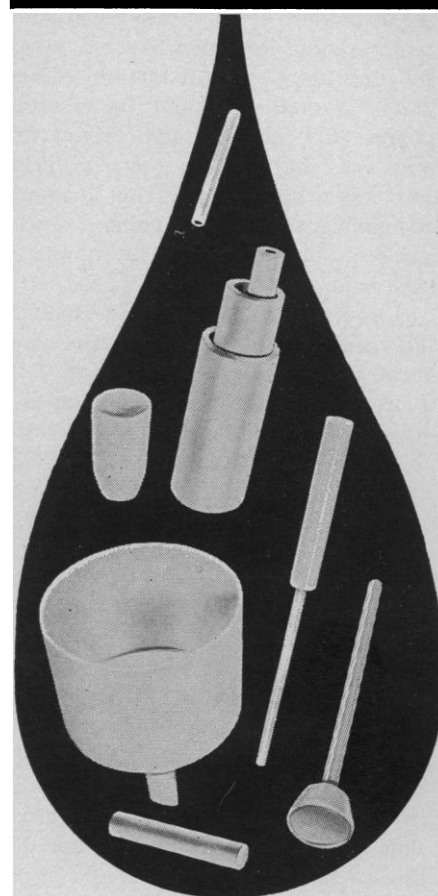
*Division of Physical Sciences,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C. 20560*

Weather Program: Plea for Candor

"Weather services: Working toward worldwide forecasts" (17 Apr., p. 352) is accurate, but the omissions are probably more important than the report. There is no indication of the budgets for this international cooperation and how they are shared and managed. The World Meteorological Organization has a budget of slightly over \$3 million per year, most of which pays for the staff in Geneva and overhead. Therefore, these international programs are large-

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ly funded by national governments. It is very difficult to find out the total program cost and how these costs are shared. Indeed, it is very difficult to find out what the world expenditures and allocations are in general. My personal estimate is that the United States is paying a very large portion of the total investment; that separate British, French, and Russian weather satellite programs are very wasteful. It is also difficult to get any cost information from the WMO.

The time is rapidly approaching when people will ask rather pointed questions about the costs and effectiveness of the weather program. I understand your reporter tried and failed to secure this type of information.

ARTHUR W. BARBER
*Institute for Politics and Planning,
Suite 500, 1411 K Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20005*

Child Studies

In Rheingold's and Eckerman's "The infant separates himself from his mother" (3 Apr., p. 78), I found it frankly perplexing that, in an article on the subject of mother-child separation, there was no mention of Margaret Mahler. Mahler's original and outstanding contributions to this area of study are widely known and accepted. Most of her scientific career has been devoted to this "class of behavior which has not often been the subject of formal study." Rheingold demonstrates her awareness of the psychoanalytic literature and does make use of it, unfortunately, not to any degree of completeness. . . .

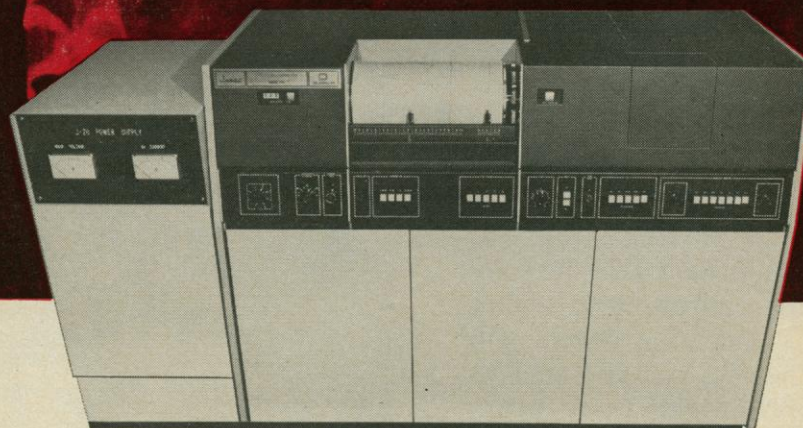
L. J. BYERLY
*Department of Child Psychiatry,
Temple University School of Medicine,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122*

We appreciate having Mahler's contribution to the topic brought to our attention. Her discussion is, however, discursive, wanting in quantitative data, and often oriented toward pathology; our statement that the infant's separation from his mother "With only a few exceptions . . . has seldom been the primary subject of study" still stands.

HARRIET L. RHEINGOLD
CAROL O. ECKERMAN
*Department of Psychology,
University of North Carolina,
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