

the full committee, which proceeds to challenge it mercilessly, point by point. Unless adequately defended by the site visitors, the proposal may be further modified or even rejected altogether. If accepted, with or without change, it is assigned a priority and forwarded to the (appropriate) National Advisory Council for implementation. (In today's climate of budgetary austerity, alas, only those proposals approved with sufficiently high priority can be funded.)

I have found all colleagues on this committee to be a group of hard-working, hard-nosed, penny-pinching scientists, adept at winnowing wheat from chaff. Thanks to such zeal and dedication, the peer review system continues to flourish.

LESTER C. MARK

*Department of Anesthesiology,  
College of Physicians and  
Surgeons, Columbia University,  
New York 10032*

### Spectacular Jaw

It was nice to see the fine old American Museum of Natural History photograph (cover, 8 Oct.) of the reconstructed *Carcharodon megalodon* jaw. It is certainly a spectacular picture, but it should be stated that the jaw is actually much too big. If the teeth in the fossil were like those in the recent species of this genus, they would diminish in size as they approach the corners of the jaw. However, this is not the case in this specimen, probably because the preparators used the largest teeth they could find to make the most spectacular jaw. Most of the teeth that are shown in this jaw come from the second anterior position of the upper jaw. These are the largest teeth that the recent "great white" has, and this must have applied as well to the fossil. It would be a similar faux pas to reconstruct a saber-tooth cat using their canines or sabers for all the teeth. We would end up with a terrifically large-jawed cat.

If the proper lateral and posterior teeth had been used in this shark-jaw reconstruction, it would reduce the size of this *Carcharodon* jaw by at least one-third. The reconstruction would still be large, but not nearly as large as the one in the photograph.

SHELTON P. APPLIGATE

*Los Angeles County Museum  
of Natural History,  
Los Angeles, California 90007*

26 NOVEMBER 1971

## Erector-set flexibility comes to the laboratory



### ...with Solv-Seal™ Glass Joints

Solv-Seal Joints are leakproof under pressure, because an interference fit between Teflon™ and glass is the primary seal. They can't freeze . . . don't require cleaning. There's no grease needed; the O-rings provide a positive secondary seal. Teflon is chemically inert and non-contaminating.

Solv-Seal Joints disconnect in seconds. They're available in seven I.D.'s from 2 mm to 50 mm. For complete details on the unique patented Solv-Seal Joint, write to Fischer & Porter Co., 8010 County Line Road, Warminster, Pa. 18974.

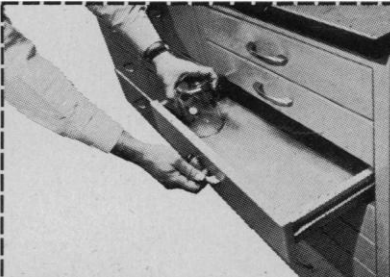



## Lab-Crest Glassware

by Fischer & Porter

Circle No. 80 on Readers' Service Card

## Cantiflex™...lab furniture's





**BLICKMAN**  
SINCE 1889

S. Blickman, Inc.  
6911 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Yes, I'd like details on Cantiflex.

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Circle No. 70 on Readers' Service Card