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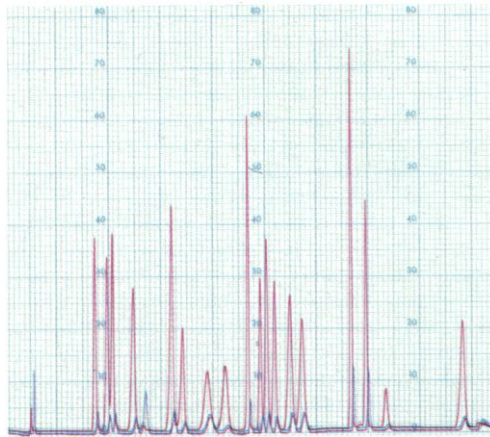
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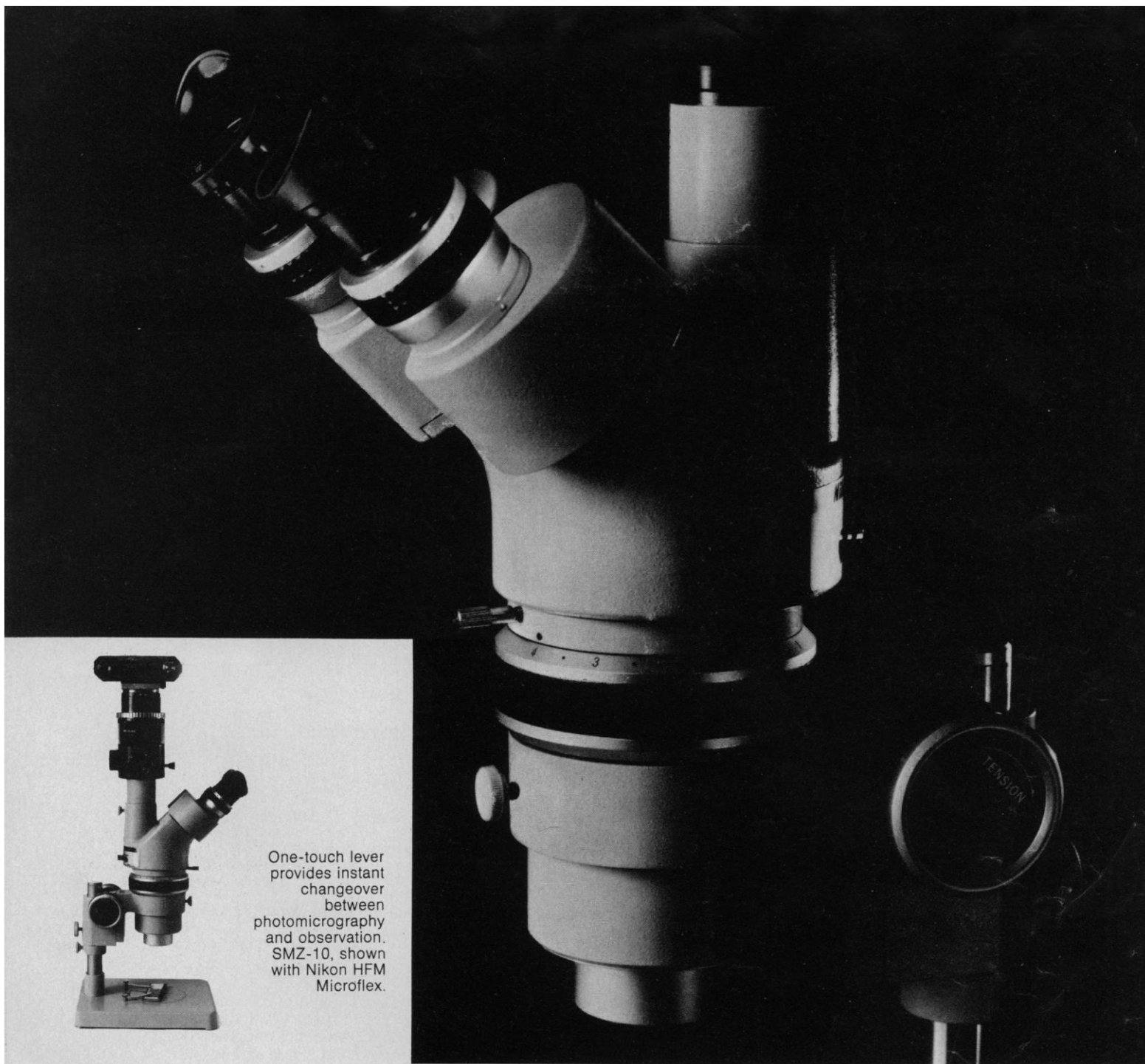
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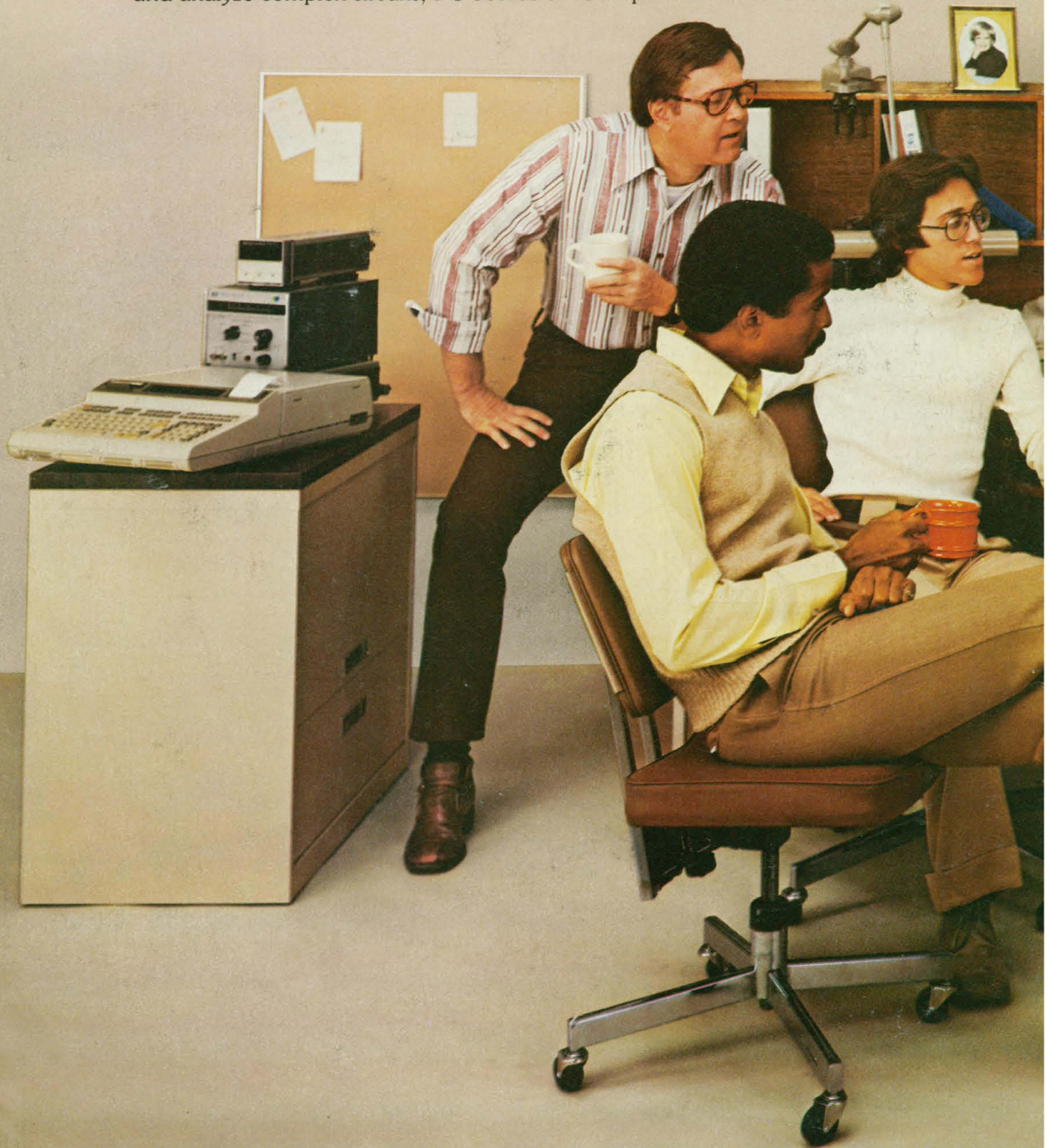
Pacific electric ray (*Torpedo californica*) swallowing a small reef fish at night off Santa Barbara, California. After prey are immobilized by electric discharges, they are moved to the mouth with the ray's pectoral fins (shown folded in toward the trunk). The ray is 750 millimeters in length. See page 333. [Richard N. Bray, Marine Science Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara]

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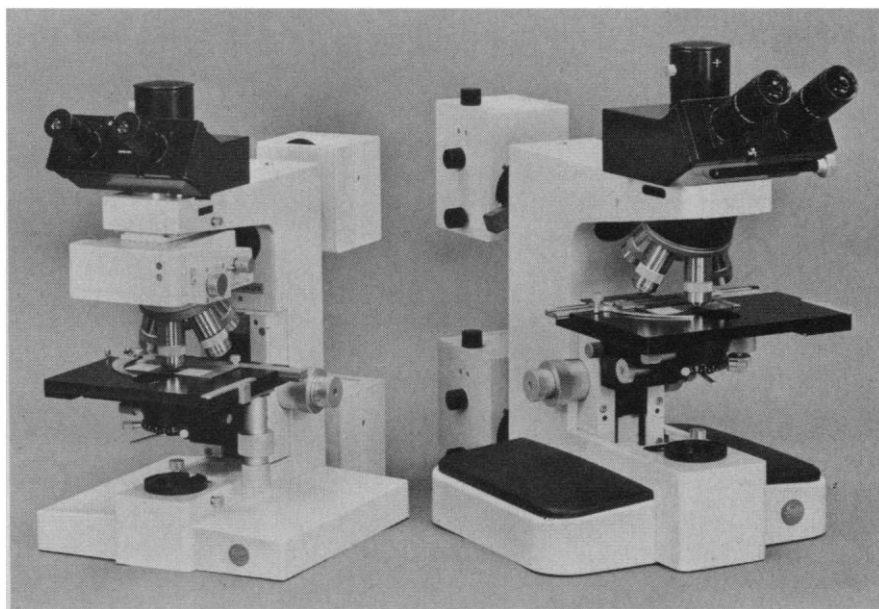
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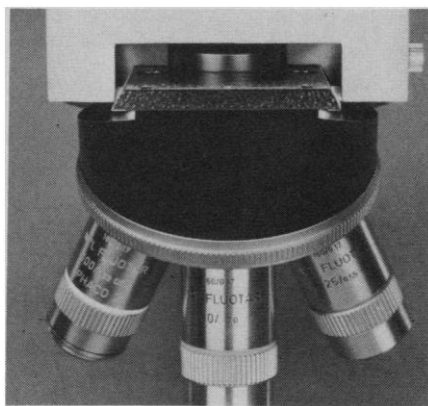
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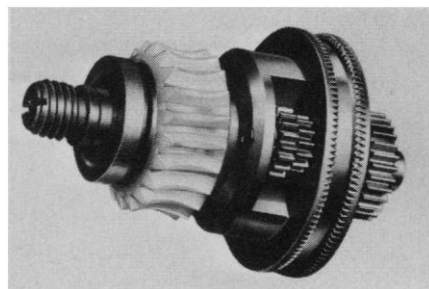


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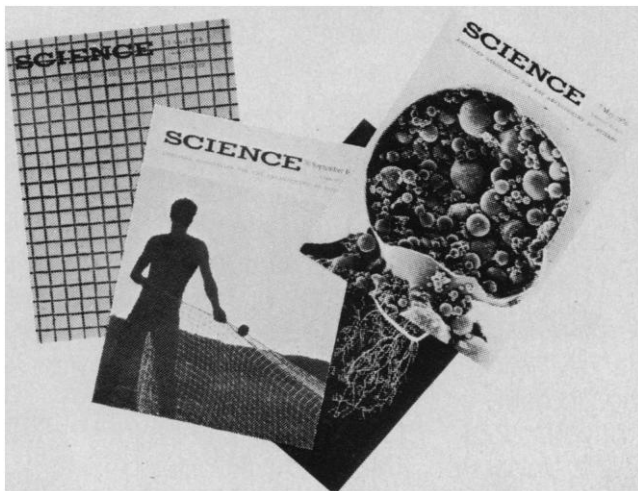
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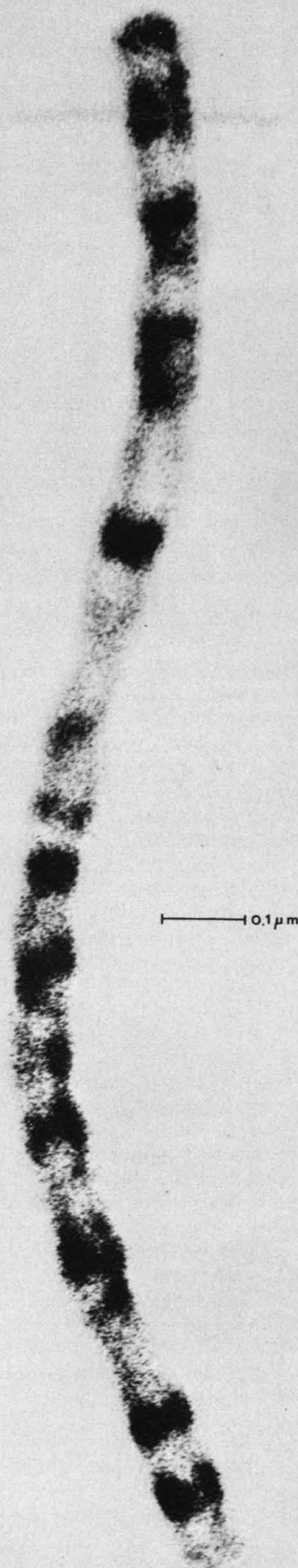
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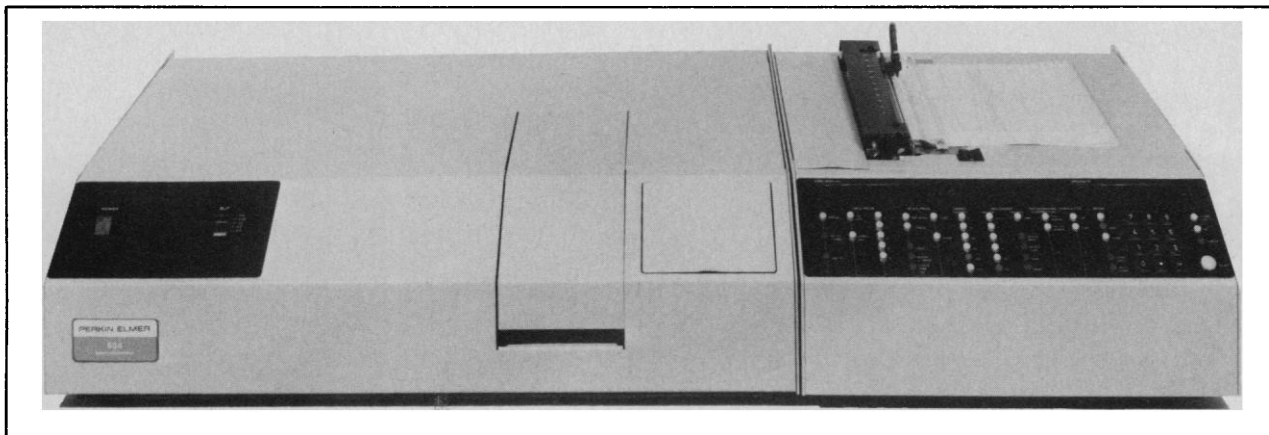
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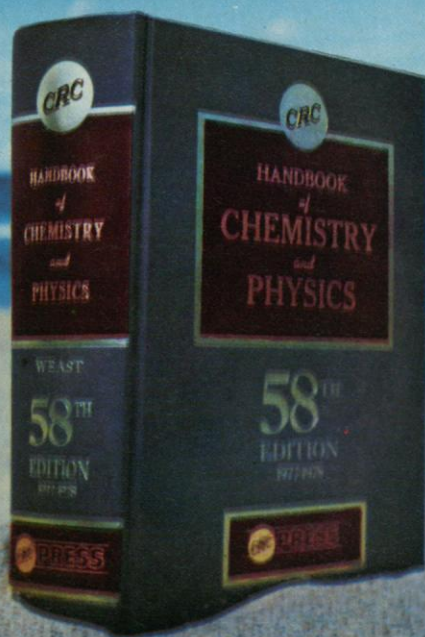
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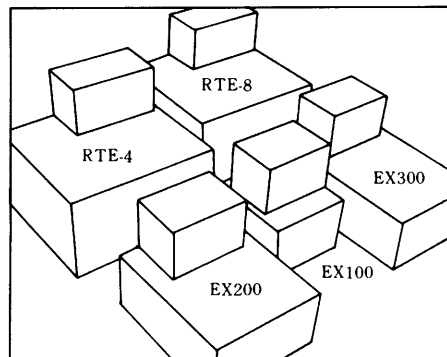
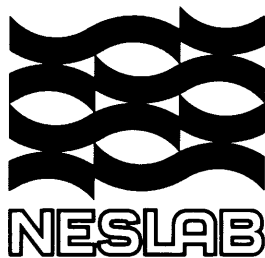
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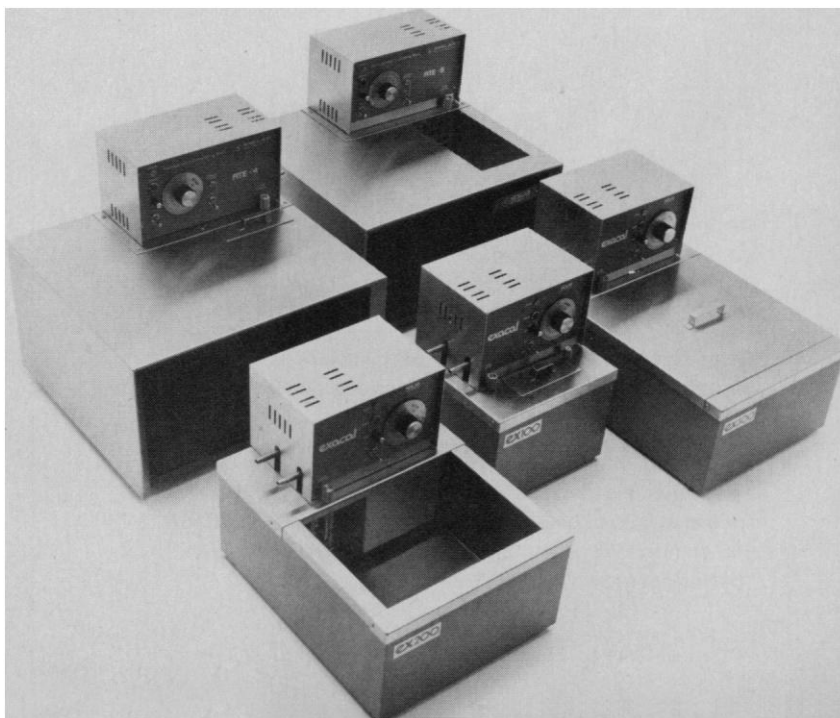
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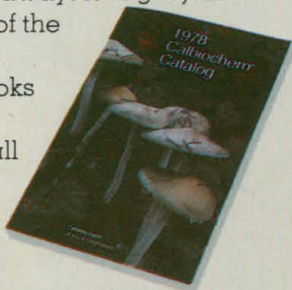
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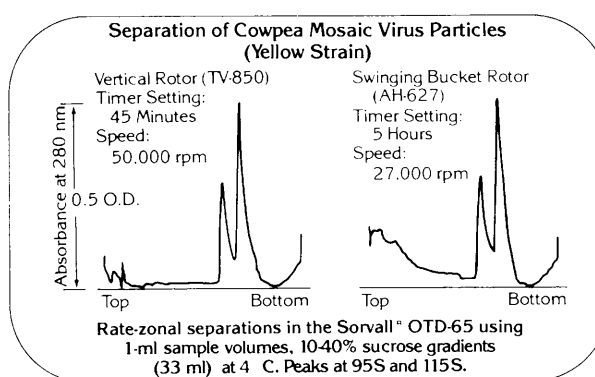
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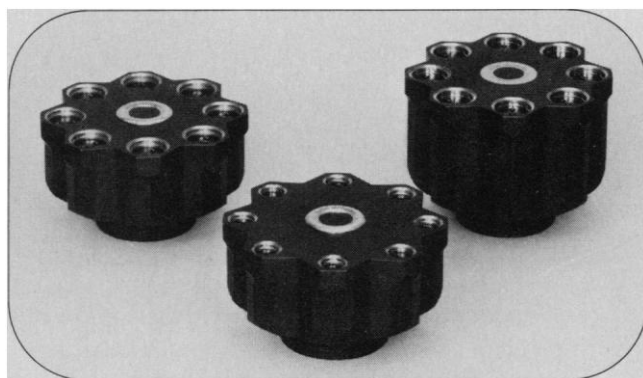
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Jean L. Marx and Gina Bari Kolata

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Through interviews with the leading researchers in the health professions, Marx and Kolata investigated the current efforts now being made to deal with the epidemiology of heart disease, its diagnosis, its relationship to an individual's life-style and age, the most promising present and projected treatment strategies, the biochemical and clinical research in progress, and the ethical problems which may confound the results of any research which involves human patients.

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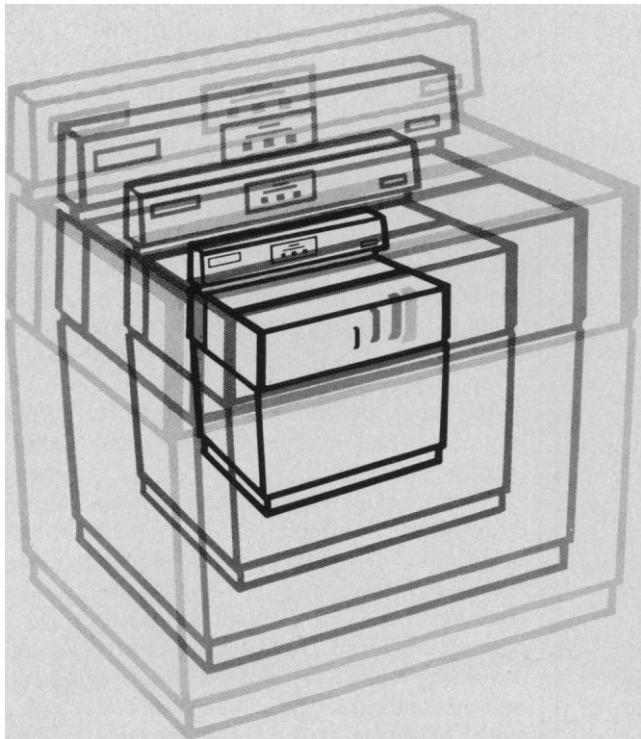
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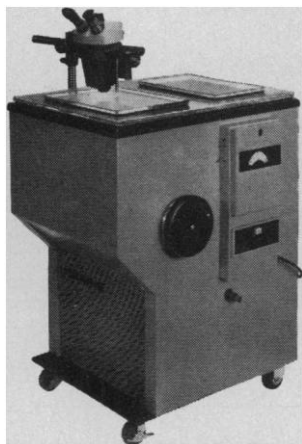
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LETTERS

Peregrine Falcon Protection

I note in the article "Bird lovers and bureaucrats at loggerheads over peregrine falcon" by Nicholas Wade (News and Comment, 10 Mar., p. 1053) that the drafter of Executive Order 11987 on exotic species has stated that the order was meant to apply to species, not to subspecies. However, if one takes the viewpoint that subspecies, even poorly marked ones, can be considered as incipient species, and therefore possess genetic diversity worth protecting, there is good reason for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to interpret the Executive Order in such a way that its definition of species is consistent with the definition of species given in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, namely, "any subspecies... and any other group... of the same species or smaller taxa in common spatial arrangement that interbreed when mature."

There are at least two examples among birds where introductions of a subspecies into the range of a second subspecies has caused near or complete obliteration of the stated characteristics of the endemic form. The Seychelles turtle dove *Streptopelia picturata rostrata*, a well-marked insular race, was swamped out of existence by *S. p. picturata*, introduced to the Seychelles from Madagascar by 1867. The Italian partridge *Perdix perdix italica* is close to extinction because of genetic swamping from partridges of several other subspecies that are raised on game farms in Italy and released regularly into the dwindling area occupied by *italica*.

The possibility that peregrine *Falco peregrinus* stock from European subspecies, which has been released in the eastern United States in the recent absence of an indigenous breeding population, will mate with and dilute or swamp indigenous populations of peregrines is remote but still quite real. Furthermore, examples can easily be suggested, particularly among island populations, where the introduction of exotic subspecies would quickly spell disaster for endemic subspecies. The Executive Order would prevent such situations by also prohibiting the possibility of release in the United States of exotic species or subspecies close to extinction in their native habitat as a last-chance effort to provide a suitable habitat, a measure which, although thus far attempted only in captive or semicaptive situations, may become more appealing as various habitats around the world are increasingly disrupted and as active manipulation of spe-

cies populations becomes more widely accepted and is tested.

The Fish and Wildlife Service needs a provision to waive the prohibition on release of exotics on a case-by-case basis, after it determines that the risk to indigenous populations is sufficiently remote and that conservation objectives of the species as a whole are better served by such introduction. Because the taxonomic validity of some peregrine subspecies is highly questionable, as Wade points out, determination of the status of peregrines on a geographical (state-by-state) basis would clearly serve the needs of peregrine conservation in this country better than the subspecies basis currently employed. A similar course has recently been taken by the Fish and Wildlife Service for the bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* for the same reason.

A realistic approach the Fish and Wildlife Service might take would be to propose as threatened all populations of the peregrine worldwide, excepting populations from certain states or regions which would remain endangered. These moves would permit continuation of federal support for programs like Cade's and at the same time give a clear indication of where priorities for management and protection of this species should lie. Thus, work to produce a new peregrine population in the eastern United States would be seen to have value primarily in developing techniques applicable to managing endangered populations in the western United States.

WARREN B. KING

*International Council for Bird
Preservation, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C. 20560*

In his article concerning the peregrine falcon, Wade quotes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service associate director Keith Schreiner as saying, "The question is whether I should be involved in establishing a new species in an area where the native species has become extinct."

Since the entire controversy over the introduction of peregrines involves *subspecies* of the peregrine falcon, and has nothing whatsoever to do with "establishing a new species," it would be most unfortunate if an administrative decision based on a misconception prevailed in this matter.

JOHN DAVIS
F. STEPHEN DOBSON
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JULIA KJELGAARD
PAMELA WILLIAMS

*Hastings Reservation, University of
California, Star Route Box No. 80,
Carmel Valley 93924*



The French Institute of Health and Medical Research (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale) is organizing a series of meetings on advanced research topics in various biomedical fields. The meetings which started last year, are known as the INSERM CONFERENCES.

The aims of the conferences are:

- to foster the exchange of ideas, to evaluate new methods and new lines of investigation;
- to bring together scientists, mostly from European countries, working in universities and public or private research institutions. The meetings will be held under the direct responsibility of a chairman and a co-chairman.

The INSERM CONFERENCES have the following special features:

- only highly topical subjects are dealt with;
- if possible, the data presented should not have been the subject of any earlier complete publication, a condition which therefore excludes general reviews;
- the Conferences do not publish proceedings or any other material, even in a summarized form.

The chairman of each INSERM Conference will invite 15 to 20 scientists to give a report in line with the above conditions. The number of contributions will be limited to three or four per session and, at the discretion of the chairman, at least one third of the time will be given over to discussion and brief informal communications.

In addition to the invited speakers, at least fifty participants will attend the meeting, and efforts will be made to select young scientists. Experienced research workers from fields other than those relating to the Conference will also be welcome to attend. Participants will be chosen in such a way as to enable those engaged in all types of scientific research to establish personal contacts, exchange information and find new ways of working together.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The INSERM CONFERENCES 1978 will be held at the Domaine de Seillac, near Blois (180 km from Paris), during the months of October and November 1978 (full address: Domaine de Seillac, 41150 Seillac, France). Each conference will last three and a half days, from Sunday evening (departure from Paris), to Thursday afternoon. Working sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. On free afternoons, participants will have a wide choice of leisure activities at the Domaine de Seillac and in the surrounding area (Tennis, Table-tennis, bicycling, visit to the Castles of the Loire).

REGISTRATION FEE AND SPECIAL FUND

Participants whose applications are accepted but who are not invited speakers, will be asked to pay their registration fee and board (1000 FF). A special fund will be made available to the chairman of each Conference, enabling him to pay part of the expenses of some participants requesting such assistance.

PROGRAMME FOR 1978

Four INSERM CONFERENCES are scheduled for 1978.

The programmes for the first two conferences (T-CELL DIFFERENTIATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIPS TO IMMUNE REGULATION - HORMONAL CONTROL OF GENE EXPRESSION) are listed below.

The announcement for the next two conferences (DEVELOPMENTAL NEUROBIOLOGY - RECOMBINANT DNA AND EUKARYOTIC GENOME) will appear in the next issue of this journal.

IMMUNOLOGY

T-CELL DIFFERENTIATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIPS TO IMMUNE REGULATION - October 15-19

Jean-François Bach, chairman; Anthony J.S. Davies, co-chairman.

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Scientists wishing to attend one of these two conferences have to submit this application form BEFORE JUNE 20th to INSERM Conferences, 101, rue de Tolbiac - 75645 PARIS CEDEX 13, France - Telephone : 584-14-41.

APPLICATION FORM:

CONFERENCE ON:
(Name - Date)

NAME, TITLE and POSITION:

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INSTITUTION (with address and phone number):

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See overleaf...

Monday - October 16 :

Morning session : Ontogeny and differentiation of T cells

Speakers : N. LE DOUARIN, F. LOOR, M. PAPIERNIK, M. RAFF, O. STUTMAN, R. ZINKERNAGEL

Evening session : Factors of T-cell differentiation

Speakers : A. ASTALDI, M. DARDENNE, A.J.S. DAVIES, K. PYKE, N. TRAININ

Tuesday - October 17 :

Morning session : T-cell receptors in relation to T-cell differentiation

Speakers : S. AVRAMEAS, H. BINZ, H. FRIDMAN, M. GREAVES, L. MORETTA, J.L. PREUD'HOMME

Evening session : Mouse and human T-cell deficiencies. Investigation of T-cell subsets in man

Speakers : R. BAILLEUX, A.J.S. DAVIES, C. GRISCELLI, F. LOOR, H. PLATTS-MILLS, M. SELIGMANN

Wednesday - October 18 :

Morning session : Cellular interactions in antibody production

Speakers : M. FELDMANN, A.L. SCHIMPL, T. TADA, J. THEZE, H. WALDMANN

Evening session : Cellular interactions in cell mediated immunity

Speakers : G. ASHERSHON, J.C. LECLERC, C. MAWAS, E. THORSBY, H. WAGNER

Thursday - October 19 :

Morning session : Regulatory T cells and the control of self reactivity

Speakers : M.A. BACH, J. CHARREIRE, T. DIAMANSTEIN, N. TALAL, H. WEKERLE, R. ZINKERNAGEL

ENDOCRINOLOGY

HORMONAL CONTROL OF GENE EXPRESSION - October 22-26

Etienne-Emile Baulieu, chairman; Anne McLaren, co-chairman.

Monday - October 23 :

Morning session : Genes and chromatin : Structure and function (1)

Discussion leader : A. McLAREN (London)

Speakers : P. CHAMBON (Strasbourg) - R. SCHIMKE (Stanford)

Evening session : Genes and chromatin : Structure and function (2)

Discussion leader : E. JENSEN (Chicago)

Speakers : E. BAUTZ (Heidelberg) - J. GOTTESFELD (Cambridge)

Tuesday - October 24 :

Morning session : Hormonal control of specific protein accumulation

Discussion leader : R. KING (London)

Speakers : G. SCHÜTZ (Berlin) - R. GOLDBERGER (Bethesda) - J. ROSEN (Houston)

Evening session : Genetics

Discussion leader : J.L. GUENET (Paris)

Speakers : M. LYON (Harvell) - M. WEISS (Gif-sur-Yvette)

Wednesday - October 25 :

Morning session : Meiosis and Hormones

Discussion leader : J. BRACHET (Bruxelles)

Speakers : S. SCHORDERET-SLATKINE (Genève) - Y. MASUI (Toronto) - A. BYSKOV (Copenhagen)

Evening session : Development

Discussion leader : J. TATA (London)

Speakers : N. RINGERTZ (Stockholm) - C. GRAHAM (Oxford)

Thursday - October 26 :

Morning session : Cancer and Hormones

Discussion leader : M. LIPSETT (Bethesda)

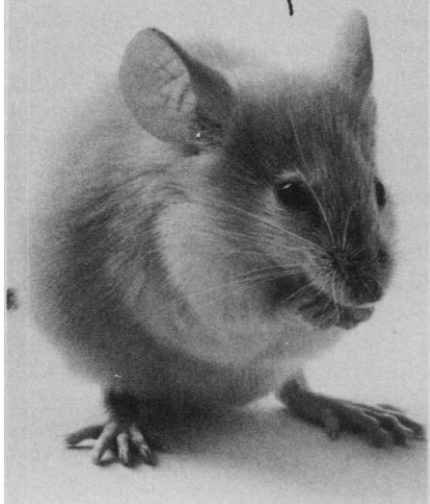
Speakers : W.L. McGUIRE (San Antonio) - H. ROCHEFORT (Montpellier) - R.L. NOBLE (Vancouver)

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World War II Nuclear Bomb Projects

The letter by F. H. Schmidt (24 Mar., p. 1286) correctly points out the importance of the electromagnetic method in the separation of uranium-235 for the World War II Manhattan Project and for the subsequent separation of stable isotopes of many elements for research purposes. A characteristic of the electromagnetic method which contributed to its wartime success, and also its adaptability to the isotopic separation of various elements, is that it intrinsically offers a high enrichment per stage. The gaseous diffusion process for uranium-235 separation was more difficult to put into production, as it required a cascade of many stages with very low enrichment per stage.

Schmidt also discusses the key issue in the success of the electromagnetic method—the requirement for adequate space-charge neutralization within the ion beams. It is interesting that both the Japanese and German physicists were discouraged from attempting the electromagnetic separation of the uranium isotopes because of the difficulty presented by this problem. The U.S. effort to produce the Hiroshima bomb could not have succeeded without overcoming the space-charge-imposed limitation in mass spectrographic resolution when intense ion beams were employed. The solution used was space-charge neutralization by automatic trapping of electrons that were produced by ionization of residual gas in the vacuum tank by the ion beams themselves.

While this solution to the space-charge problem was used by E. O. Lawrence's Radiation Laboratory in designing the Oak Ridge electromagnetic separations plant, it was discovered before the Radiation Laboratory effort. In earlier work at Cornell University with lithium ion beams, Smith *et al.* (1) observed and explained the trapped electron neutralization resulting from residual gas. To quote from this reference (1, p. 1002):

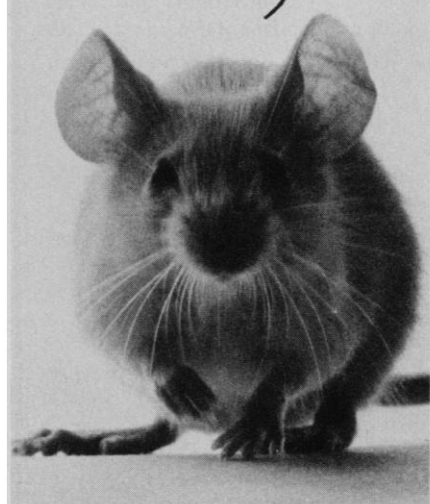
The fact that partial space charge neutralization takes place even when no effort was made to accomplish it indicates that neutralization could be made very much more effective by introducing electrons by any of a number of special ways.

It must then be concluded that there is at present no indication the space charge is limiting the current that can be collected by this method.

The article by Smith *et al.* was received by the *Physical Review* on 18 February 1942, but for reasons of secrecy was voluntarily withheld from publication until the end of the war.

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June 20-21, 1978

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**AAAS
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June 20 and 21, 1978**

The AAAS R&D analysis project, sponsored by the AAAS Committee on Science and Public Policy and initiated in 1976, has resulted in two well-received books on research and development in the federal budgets for FY 1977 and FY 1978, and two highly successful colloquia in June of 1976 and 1977, attended by 200-250 AAAS members, government officials, and others. The June 20-21, 1978 colloquium will offer a forum for constructive discussion of current issues in federal and industry R&D with officials of the Executive and Legislative branches and from industry and universities. **Research & Development: AAAS Report III** by Willis H. Shapley and Don I. Phillips will be available in book form for the June 1978 colloquium.*

Specific topics this year will be the impact of the first complete Carter budget on R&D, trends and problems of R&D in industry, and the impact of R&D on the economy. For information and reservations, write to

**Ms. Patricia S. Curlin
AAAS Office of Public
Sector Programs
1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036**

*Research and Development in the Federal Budget: FY 1977 and Research and Development in the Federal Budget: FY 1978 (\$5.50 each; AAAS members, \$4.95) and the 1976 and 1977 Colloquium Proceedings (\$5.25 each; AAAS members, \$4.75) may be purchased from AAAS.

in which we demonstrated space-charge neutralization was basically the Dempster-type mass spectrograph. The so-called "Calutron" used in the Oak Ridge electromagnetic separations plant was also basically a Dempster-type mass spectrograph. It lends itself to electron neutralization of the ion beam space charge because the geometric separation of the ions of different isotopes takes place in a region free from applied electric fields.

A little-known aspect of the Manhattan Project was another effort to carry out quantity separation of uranium-235 by electromagnetic means. This work was performed early in the war at Princeton University with a concept referred to as the "Isotron." It was based on velocity modulation of an ion beam with time-variant electrical fields applied between drift spaces. This method did not lend itself to effective space-charge neutralization by electrons, a limitation also observed in the earlier work at Cornell and discussed in (1). The Isotron project was discontinued in 1943, and the wartime electromagnetic separations work was concentrated on the Dempster-type mass spectrographic approach being developed at the University of California Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley.

Those of us who were involved in that frenzied effort frequently speculated on what the counterparts of our apparatus looked like in Japan and Germany. As it turned out, there were none. Even if the scientists of those countries had solved the space-charge problem of the electromagnetic method, it is unlikely plants could have been constructed and operated to carry out the necessary quantity of uranium-235 separation. The bombing attacks during the later phase of the war would have been too disruptive.

W. E. PARKINS

*Atomics International,
Canoga Park, California 91304*

References

1. L. P. Smith, W. E. Parkins, A. T. Forrester, "On the separation of isotopes in quantity by electromagnetic means," *Phys. Rev.* **72**, 989 (1947).

While my own research corroborates nearly all of what Deborah Shapley reports on Japan's attempts to build an atomic bomb (News and Comment, 13 Jan., p.152), the fact is that Japan lacked adequate long-range aircraft like the B-29 and by 1943 had inadequate capabilities to even launch a second attack on Hawaii. A much more likely scenario would have been for Japan to resort to using its bomb in China, Okinawa, or even the Soviet Union.

Some Japanese newspapers have chosen to give the *Science* article front-page

coverage, perhaps because it comes at a time when Japan has a near-capability of building weapons using fuel reprocessed at its pilot reprocessing plant.

ROGER W. GALE

*c/o Foreign Correspondents' Club of
Japan, 1-7-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku,
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Science, Media, and Worst-Case Limits

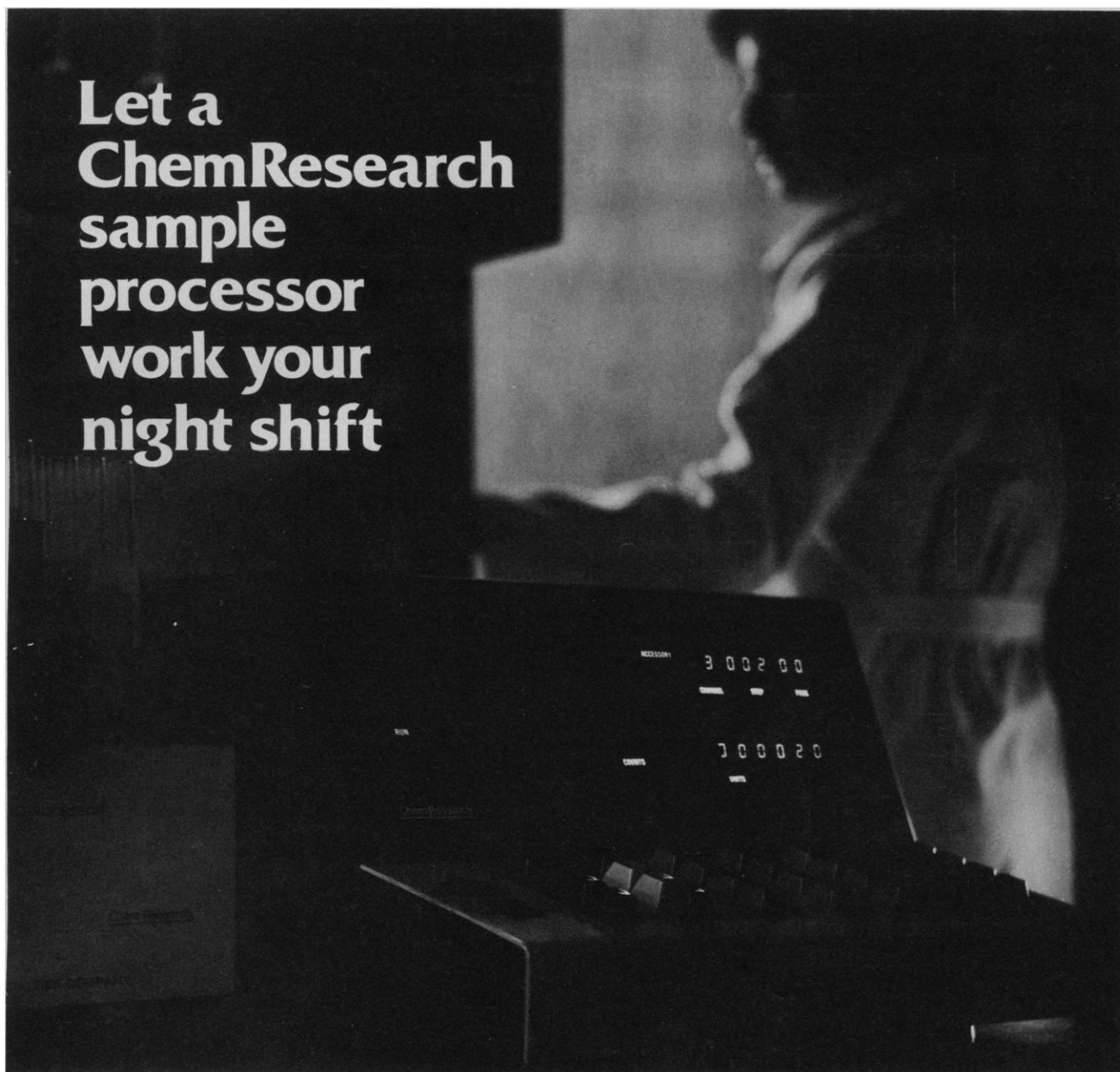
How can one discourage misuse of worst-case limits in the public domain? One approach is to widely publicize the fact that such misuse is unprofessional, unethical, and results in slanted information. When worst-case limits are misused, the transgressors should be taken to task.

The news media often report the results of criminal trials. In those cases where a defendant is found guilty on multiple counts, before sentencing it is standard procedure to describe the limit of possible sentences by assuming that each count will result in the maximum punishment and that prison time for each count will be served sequentially. Thus, a 60-year-old man found guilty on six counts, each with a 20-year maximum penalty, is described as being subject to a possible sentence of 120 years, notwithstanding the impossibility of such a sentence being carried out. It should be noted that the 120-year sentence even has a legal connotation, namely, that parole would not be possible for 60 years (in many jurisdictions) should the maximum sentence be implemented.

Regardless of the impossibility and meaninglessness of such a sentence, there has been no apparent public confusion or concern about the use of such numbers by the media. This lack of concern may be explained by the fact that there are criteria understood by the public that allow them to evaluate the statement with proper perspective. The limited life-span of individuals and the rarity of such sentences ever being completed are self-evident, and this may prevent misinterpretations.

I call this tendency of the media, the public, scientists, and others to make an estimate of the worst-case limit in the case above and in other situations the "penal syndrome." Just as an average is a central measure of a range of possible measures, the upper (or lower) limit of the range of possible measures is also a valid, but often inferior, way of describing quantifiable conditions. However, the use of such upper limits in many situations is made without the criteria neces-

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sary to put these limits in reasonable perspective. It is typical for the media and the public to focus on these upper limits, and to do so without qualifications.

As an example, consider the case of plutonium toxicity. Although there is no case on record of a fatality caused by plutonium in humans (1), it is often said that plutonium is one of the substances most toxic to humans and that 200 million body burdens can be held in a single teaspoon. Certainly body burdens are a useful comparative measure of the relative toxicity of substances that can be absorbed by an "average" human; but without reference to the relative ability of such doses to reach the human body, they have no meaning in any absolute way. The critical pathway to the human body for plutonium is inhalation of insoluble particles of plutonium oxide (within a limited size range). Conversely, the toxin that causes botulism, the body burden limit for which is often compared to that for plutonium, is highly soluble in water and can reach the human body more easily (2).

In science, extreme limits are useful measures. They may be used on either an absolute or relative basis; in the latter case systems may be compared against each other at their limits. However, for both there is now an understandable reticence by many scientists to state worst-case limits for fear of misuse by the media and others. This impedes the transfer of important information.

One cannot fault the media for wanting to use worst-case limits, as they make news more marketable. The fault lies in using them without qualification in cases where important criteria for discrimination are absent, where propagation of such limits takes place out of context, and where purposeful misuse occurs.

In any case, the professional community must preserve its right to use and publish all information for public understanding without the menace of possible misuse. A concerted effort to identify and criticize misuse as cited is an important duty that accompanies the right to free exchange of information.

W. D. ROWE

*Office of Radiation Programs,
 Environmental Protection Agency,
 Washington, D.C. 20460*

Notes

1. There may or may not be statistical fatalities among the total population resulting from plutonium exposure, but cause-effect relations cannot be established except when test animals have been given very large doses.
2. Further confusion may arise from the delayed effects of ²³⁹Pu exposure being measured in years while those of the botulism toxin are measured in hours. Thus the comparison of body burdens alone is inferior to other measures as a way of describing relative toxicity.

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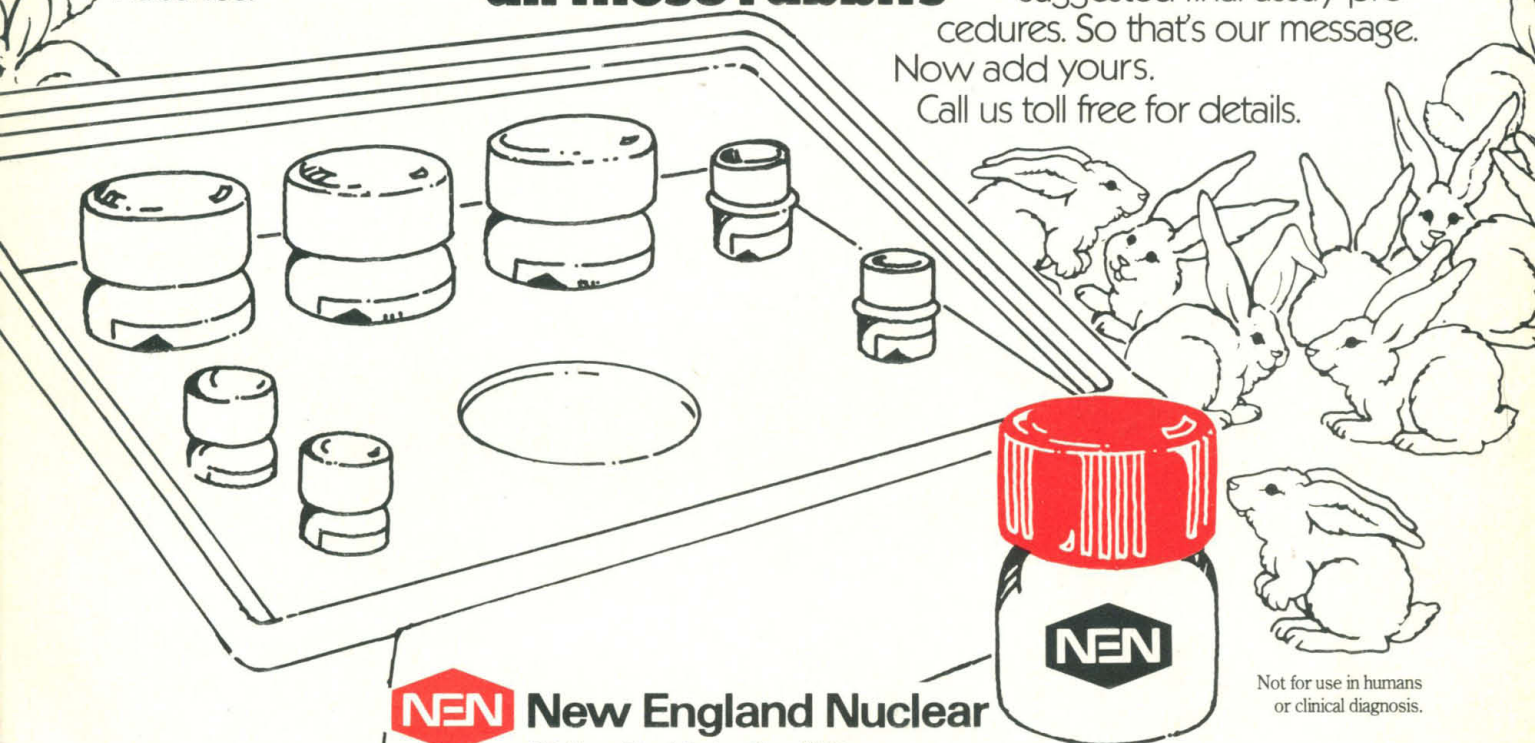
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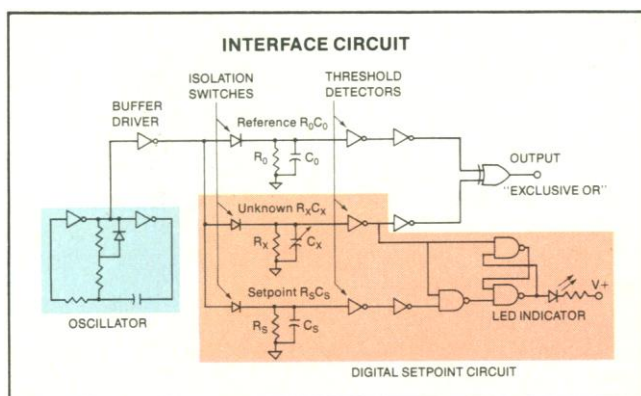
¹Lodish, HF, Ann Rev Biochem, 45, 39 (1976)

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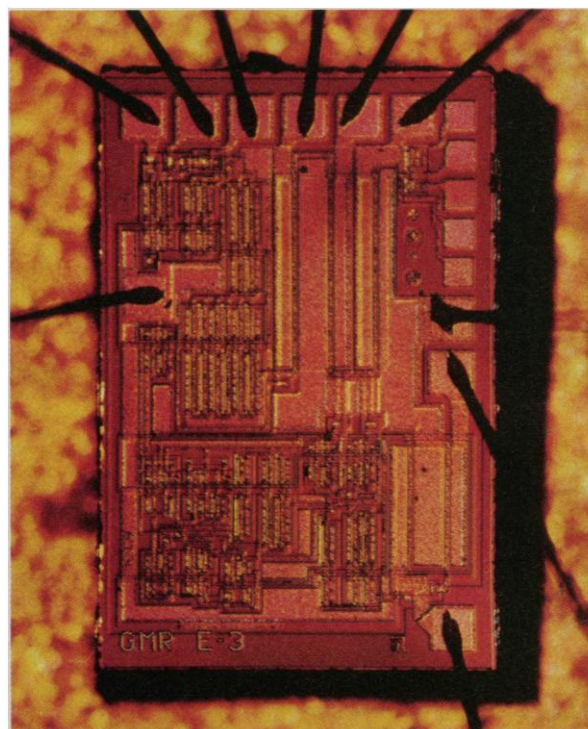
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The Annual Meeting

With 144 annual meetings under its belt, AAAS to outward appearances has mastered the job of staging the world series of science and technology. The impression is pleasant but hardly accurate. Toil and struggle go into the architecture of every meeting, and basic questions arise concerning the objectives that are sought.

When AAAS was young, the annual meeting served the purpose of assembling the scattered band of America's scientist-philosophers to read learned papers and to engage in fraternal discourse. More than a century later, the configurations of scientific research and practice are vastly changed, while the scale and sophistication of information diffusion systems put the annual meeting in another light. With close to 300 affiliated societies now in the AAAS network, some of them at or beyond the membership strength of AAAS, the burden of in-depth updating of the state of science must be shared by the disciplinary organizations.

What, then, are the purposes served by the annual meeting of AAAS? Several come to mind. The meeting helps, however briefly, to underscore the essential interdependence of scientific fields and to break down parochialism. It offers a bridging mechanism to link thoughts and experiences originating from diverse starting points and premises. It offers opportunities for challenge and cross-fertilization, both being essential counterweights to elitism and arrogance in science. It reminds scientists that there exists an implicit contract with society, and that the freedom to pursue research and apply its results carries commensurate accountability. The meeting is both a celebration of the centrality of science in our affairs and a process for disclosing its directions and meanings for the human condition. For one short week both the glory and the limits of science go on display, and for furthering public understanding of science (ergo the advancement of science) it would be hard to suggest a substitute. If there are those who come to the meeting not to share its excitement but to express dissent, they can expect a hearing within the accepted rules of civil discourse, but no license for disorder and disruption.

The 145th AAAS meeting has been rerouted to Houston. That decision by the Board of Directors, adopted out of respect for the concerns of women in science, will take AAAS for the first time to a city rich in scientific drive, creativity, and technological innovation. It will also situate the meeting close by our Latin neighbors whose needs, goals, and rising expectations for progress furnish the thrust for the AAAS project in Western Hemispheric Cooperation in Science, which has helped to shape a new and promising federation of scientific associations. The Houston meeting will be different in still another respect: it will be held during the first week of January to take advantage of the collegiate intersession.

The quality of the annual meetings of AAAS is determined chiefly by the ideas and labors of our members and affiliated societies. It is not programmed from the top down. In every sense, it is the members' meeting. The role of the headquarters staff is to negotiate for symposia, to sort out and coordinate the ideas that swarm in, to be watchful that controversial topics are presented fairly and with balance, and to make sure the final program fairly reflects the contemporary range of interactions among science, technology, and society. It is a very large order. The problem of coherence is perhaps the trickiest part of it, as the news media struggle to capture and report with accuracy the main currents of science, technology, and human values to the external audience, which furnishes the multiplier effect in explaining what science is about.

Looking back on the 1978 meeting, the directors of the Association share a variety of sentiments: much satisfaction, appreciation to those who contributed so much, and confidence that the Houston meeting will be still better.—WILLIAM D. CAREY

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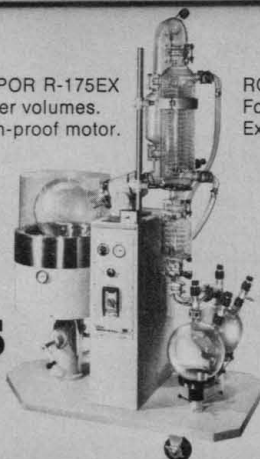
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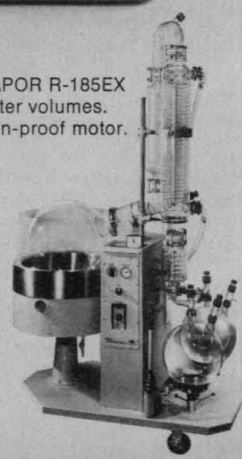
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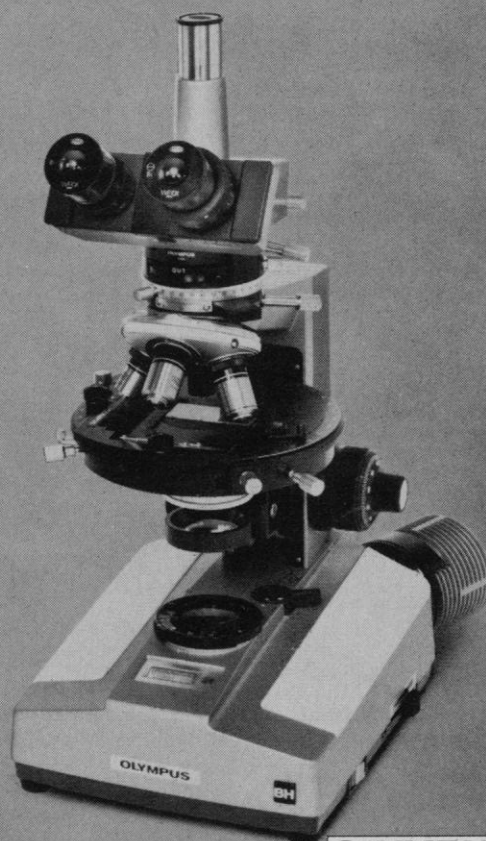
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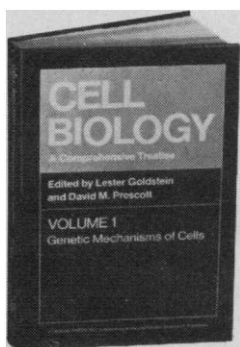


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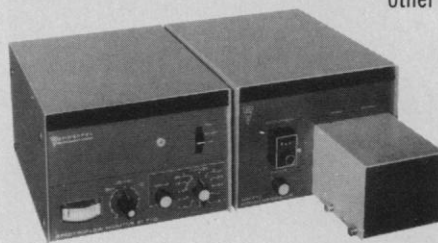
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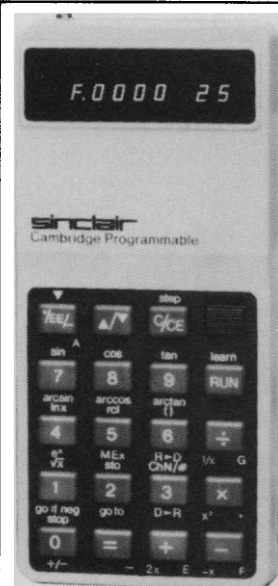
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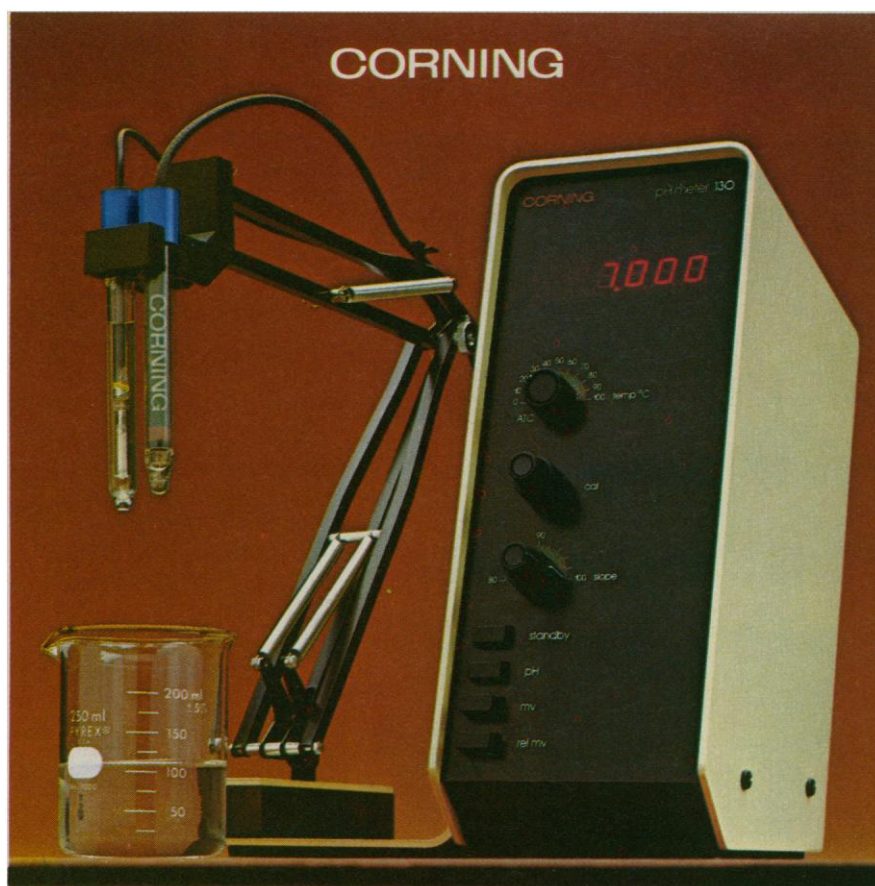
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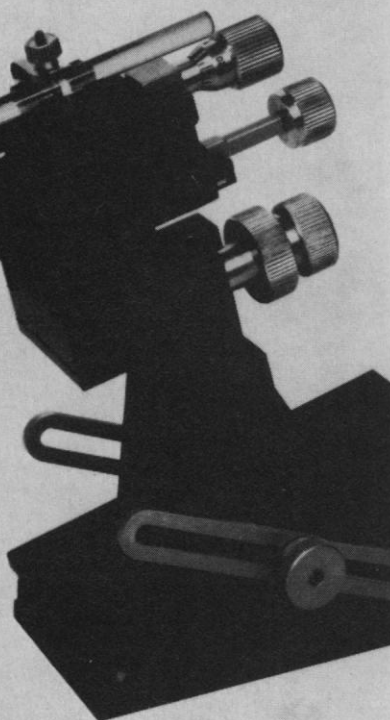
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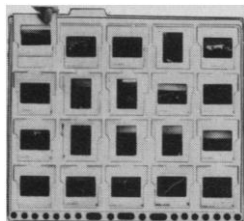


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