

Greenwich Observatory (RGO) from its home at Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex. Sadly the situation seems to be that the British Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) has decided to decrease support for optical astronomy, but rather than say so, has tried to persuade British astronomers that such a move of the RGO would somehow be "a good thing." Last year SERC set up a panel to review the future of the two royal observatories (at Herstmonceux and at Edinburgh). After 8 months of deliberating, the panel found no good reason, either scientific or financial, to change the status quo. It is ominous that SERC has not published the report of this panel, although its findings are well known in the astronomical community.

SERC's stated preference is to move England's national observatory of more than 300 years' standing to the capital of Scotland, to merge with the Royal Observatory Edinburgh (without apparently considering the more logical move in the opposite direction). Dickson quotes SERC as stating that "the benefits to RGO of a campus associa-

tion are considerable." It is hard to imagine what SERC has in mind. For the past 20 years we have collaborated very successfully in both teaching and research with Sussex University, just 20 miles away. In this time some 60 students have received doctorates in astronomy, of whom nearly half were supervised by RGO staff. In addition, RGO staff are collaborating with 12 groups on instrumental projects and in the past year alone have published research papers with astronomers from more than 50 British and foreign research centers.

While the operation of the La Palma Observatory is our major project, the activities at the RGO are considerably more extensive than Dickson's briefing suggests. We, the staff of the RGO, believe that the RGO is not only an important modern observatory but also part of our British national heritage which must be saved. We are not against the idea of change if some real benefit to astronomy is likely to come from it. However, we believe the opposite to be the more likely outcome and do not think there is any justification for the up-

heaval which will be caused to some 150 families in addition to the destruction of the oldest nationally funded scientific institution in Britain and considerable disruption to the national astronomy program.

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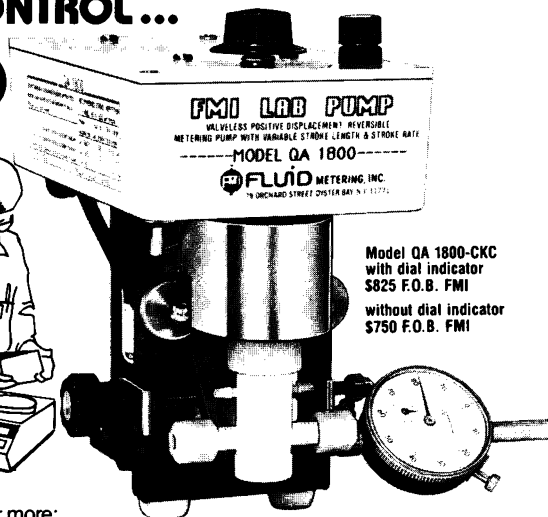
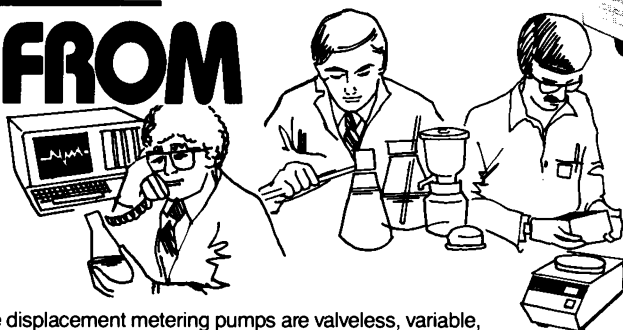
**Erratum:** In the Technical Comment "Measurement of brain deoxyglucose metabolism by NMR" (9 May, p. 776), the first sentence of the second paragraph should have read, "The agreement between the NMR curve and the data of Sokoloff is remarkably close between 40 and 120 minutes after administration of deoxyglucose."

**Erratum:** The author note for the article "Safeguarding our military space systems" by Michael M. May (18 Apr., p. 336) should have stated that the article will appear in the Aspen Strategy Group's forthcoming volume *Seeking Stability in Space*, to be published by the University Press of America in 1986.

**Erratum:** The fifth sentence in M. Granger Morgan's editorial "Risk research: When should we say 'enough'?" (23 May, p. 917) should have read, "But suppose that after significant effort a risk is not demonstrated."

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