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COVER Experimental angular distribution of 65–electron volts Auger electrons emitted from an atomically clean platinum[111] single-crystal surface. Lighter colors represent larger signal. Contours (green) depict the theoretical distribution from a pair of adjacent atomic layers. These results reveal that Auger electron angular distributions consist of the "silhouettes" of near-surface atoms "backlit" by Auger emission originating from atoms located deeper in the sample. See page 182. [Data acquisition and graphics by D. G. Frank, N. Batina, and A. T. Hubbard; photography by R. Shaw, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH]

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This Week in Science

Nuclear winter update

N the early 1980s, the first nuclear winter scenarios were proposed. Since then, mathematical simulations, global climate models, laboratory experiments, studies of fires and natural dust clouds, and various other analyses have provided new information critical to our understanding of how nuclear war could alter climate and life on the earth. A review of the nuclear winter scenario is provided in this issue by Turco et al. (page 166). After a nuclear exchange, urban fires would generate soot, ash, dust, oily droplets, and other products. (Different flammable materials-lumber, fossil fuels, plastics, vegetation-generate different combinations of these.) The most important combustion product for producing the nuclear winter conditions is black sooty smoke. Studies of the optical and physical properties of soot have made predictions more accurate of soot's effects on surface temperatures, atmospheric temperatures, circulation patterns, precipitation, and insolation. There remain a number of uncertainties in the nuclear winter equation, but the basic physics of the phenomenon has remained essentially as originally formulated.

Mountains and climate

OUNTAINS play a major part in inducing arid and semiarid climate conditions (page 192). Two of the Northern Hemisphere's great arid stretches that abut mountainous regions-western North America from the Great Basin eastward across the Rocky Mountains to the Great Plains and central Asia from Turkestan east across the Tibetan Plateau to the Gobi Desert-were targeted in simulations with a general circulation model. Simulations that included mountains reproduced the arid conditions and dry soils of these regions; simulations run without mountains predicted moister climates and wetter soils. Elevated land masses evidently perturb the jet stream and shift the paths of storms away from the region by inducing large-scale stationary waves in the atmosphere. In addition, mountain ranges and plateaus produce a rain-shadow effect (rain falls only on the front side of the mountain) for those storms that are able to enter the region. Manabe and Broccoli note that the climate record shows these regions have grown progressively drier during the past 10 million years; they were much wetter before the uplift of the Rocky Mountains and the Tibetan Plateau.

Improving air quality

AN urban air quality be improved through use of methanol-based fuels in cars, trucks, and other vehicles (page 201)? Simulations, run by Russell et al., show how air quality would change in the Los Angeles region 10 and 20 years from now if vehicles were powered by methanol. Methanol has lower chemical reactivity in the atmosphere than most components of gasoline; when it is used as a power source, ozone production and the formation of photochemical smog are reduced. Pure methanol is more effective than a methanol-gasoline blend but cannot yet be used safely. Methanol-fueled vehicles now in use emit more formaldehyde than vehicles powered by gasoline, but the simulations indicate that this poisonous gas would not be produced in dangerous amounts. In addition, there would not be a dangerous buildup of methanol in the atmosphere with continuous use. Overall, the studies suggest that use of methanol could reduce ozone formation by up to 11% in the year 2010 but that significantly greater improvements would not occur even if all cars were eliminated. Thus, converting vehicle engines for methanol use would help to improve air quality only if it were part of a more comprehensive strategy.

Cellular senescence

HEN normal human fibroblasts are put into culture, they have only a limited lifespan. Typically, these cells will undergo from 20 to 60 population doublings

before they stop dividing. The molecular basis of this "cellular senescence" was studied by Seshadri and Campisi by comparing patterns of gene expression in senescent cells with those in younger quiescent and actively growing cells (page 205). Senescent cells were not just blocked in a quiescent phase but had a distinctive altered pattern of gene expression. Of seven genes studied, four were expressed about normally in the senescent cells, although one did not produce normal amounts of its enzyme product; expression of the other three genes was greatly reduced. The protooncogene *c-fos* was one of the repressed genes; its normal expression is considered essential for cell division, and the reduced expression may account for the inability of senescent cells to proliferate. The results strengthen the hypothesis that cellular aging is an active terminal differentiation process.

Brain chemotropism

HAT makes the axons of nerves grow to specific targets in the brain? A study by Heffner et al. indicates that diffusible substances from the target tissue, in this case the pons, can induce growing axons from the cortex to send collateral branches in the direction of the pons (page 217). The study was performed by coculturing portions of the cortex with the pons or other tissues of the nervous system. The branching of axons was shown not to be an inherent property of the axons that was predetermined either in time or space; instead, lateral growth was induced by a longdistance signal from the pons. The chemotropic substance attracted only axons coming from cells in layer 5 of the cortex, the layer that typically sends its axons to the pons. In vivo, these axons, guided by growth cones at their tips, grow out from the cortex but pass by the pons and enter the spinal cord. Only later in development, perhaps when the pons has matured to a certain point, does the pons produce the chemoattractant; the neural connections are then made that will participate in motor con-RUTH LEVY GUYER trol.



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Science & Society

Science, Technology, and Society

Emerging Relationships

Edited by Rosemary Chalk

This volume provides a thorough introduction to the issues concerning the unique relationships among science, technology, and society (STS). It offers 85 articles, editorials, and letters published over the past 40 years in *Science*, the weekly journal of the AAAS.

The material provides a broad overview of the emerging relationships of science, technology, and society in the period after World War II. Contributors include Bertrand Russell, C.P. Snow, Pope John Paul II, and many scholars well known in the scientific literature. The collection reflects a variety of perspectives on science, technology, and society. Provocative essays capture the concerns of leaders in the scientific community who sought to articulate the pressing problems of their times.

The book is a valuable resource for those with a professional interest in STS studies. It is also designed for use as a supplemental text for college or high school courses examining the social context of STS. And it is of interest to lay readers who want to gain an insight into the purposes and values that shape the directions of science.

Topics include: Scientific responsibility; science and freedom; science and eth-



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1989; 262 pp.; softcover; index **#88-12S** - \$19.95 (members \$15.95)



Dael Wolfle was executive officer of AAAS during the post-war period that saw an unprecedented growth in American science. In this clear and engaging narrative, he describes the Association's role in that growth as well as its internal changes as it sought to serve its four key constituencies: scientists working in all fields of science and technology, students seeking careers in those fields, a public that increasingly needed to understand new technological advances, and opinion leaders whose decisions could influence scientific and technological activities. Dr. Wolfle also describes the AAAS's work on a wide range of national issues, including development of the National Science Foundation; Cold War concerns about the loyalty and freedom of scientists; questions about the ownership and control of research; efforts to develop an effective science curriculum for all Americans; and issues regarding air conservation, the use of arid lands, the effects of herbicides in Vietnam, and much more.

This book is essential for historians of science, members of scholarly organiza-



tions, and everyone who wants to understand the inner workings of a major scientific society.

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