

SCIENCE

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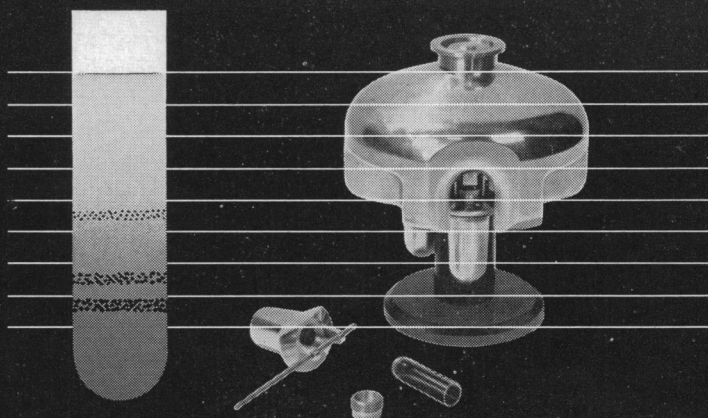


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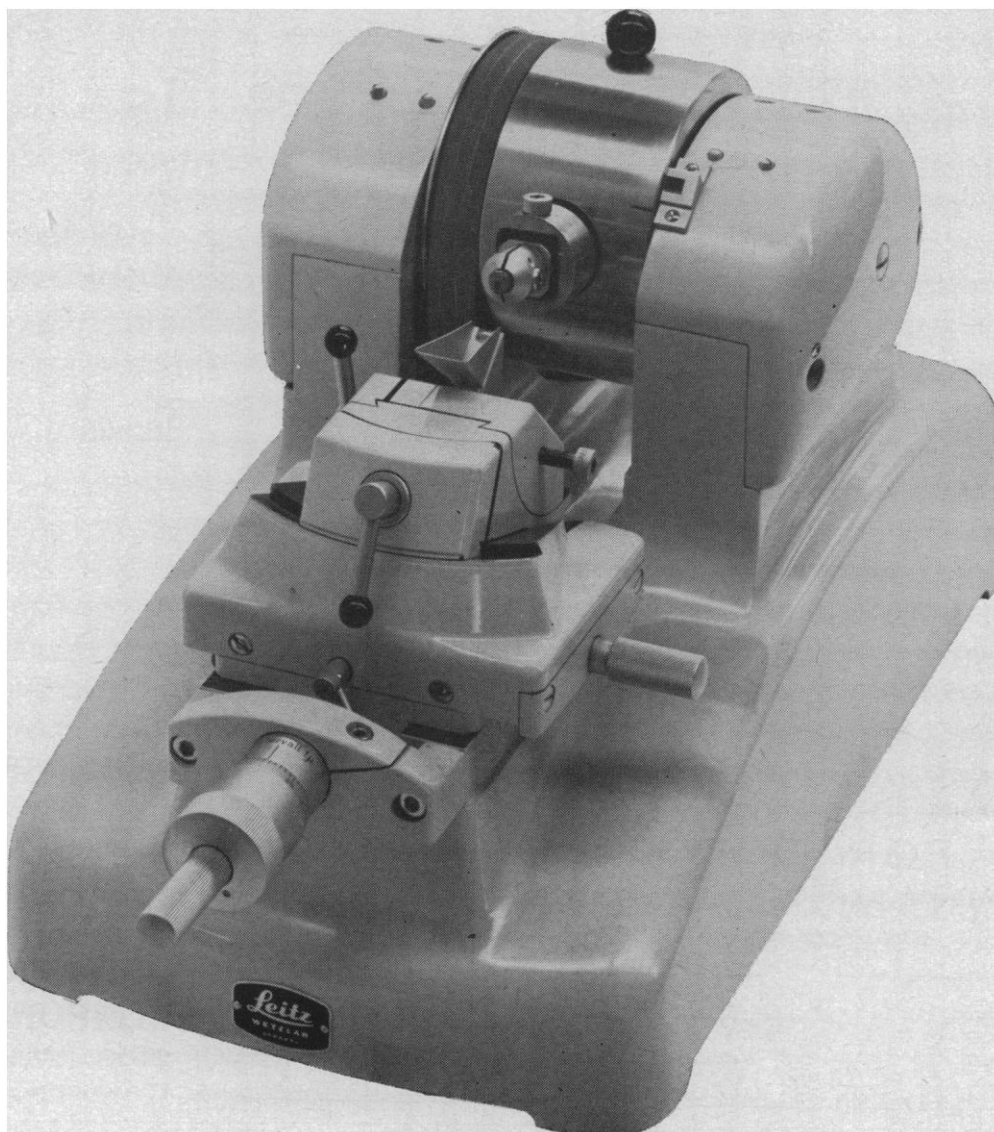
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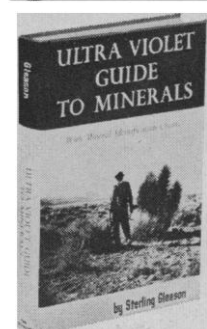
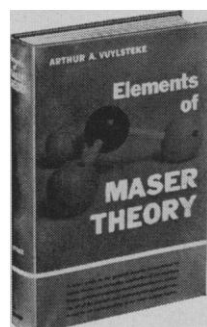
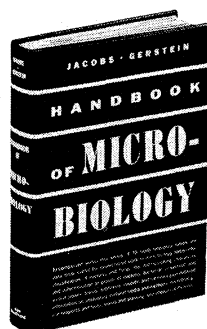
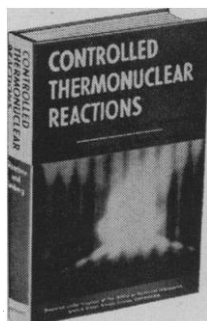
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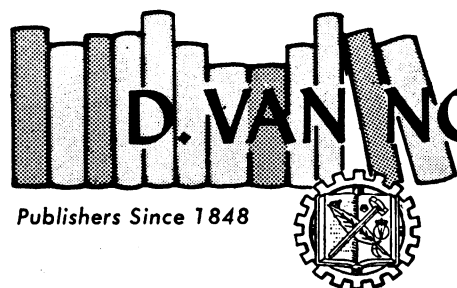
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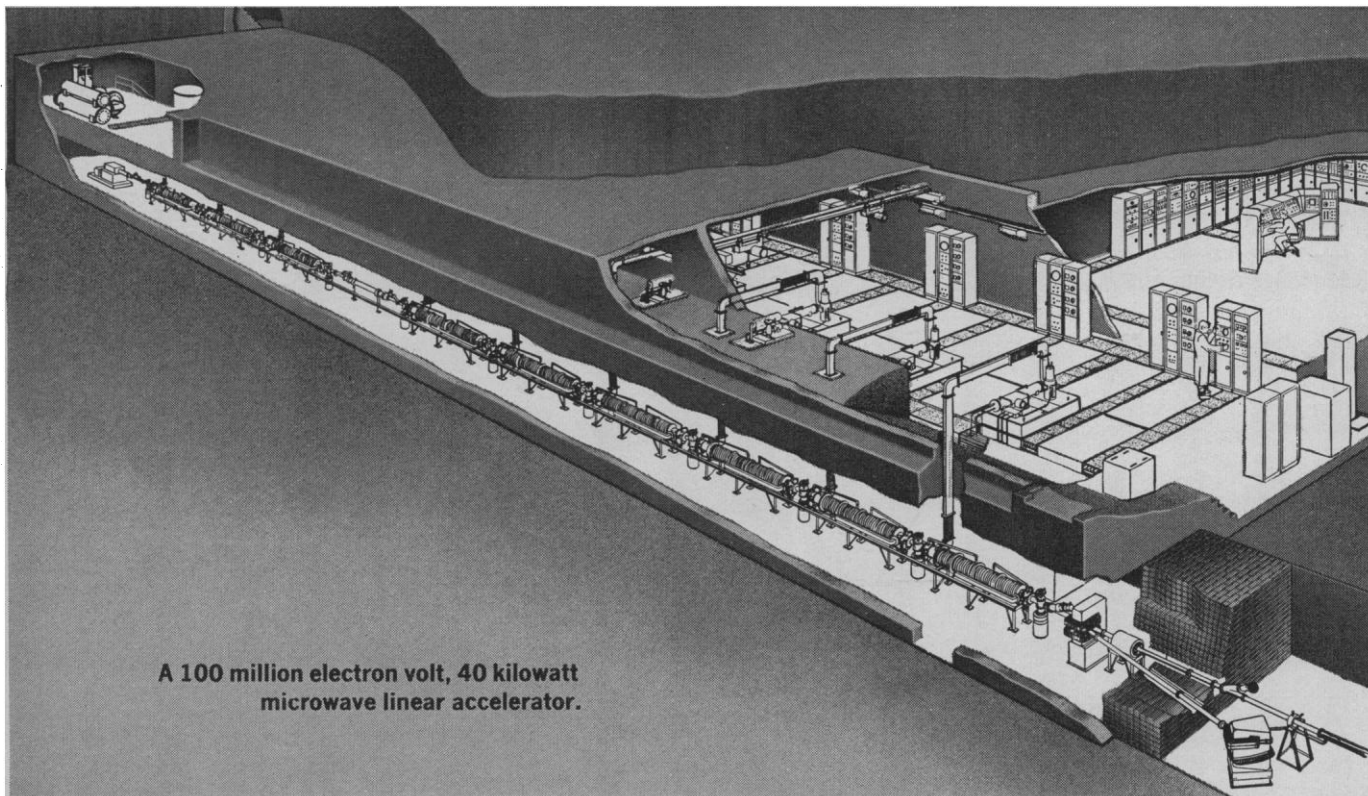
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Middle Ground

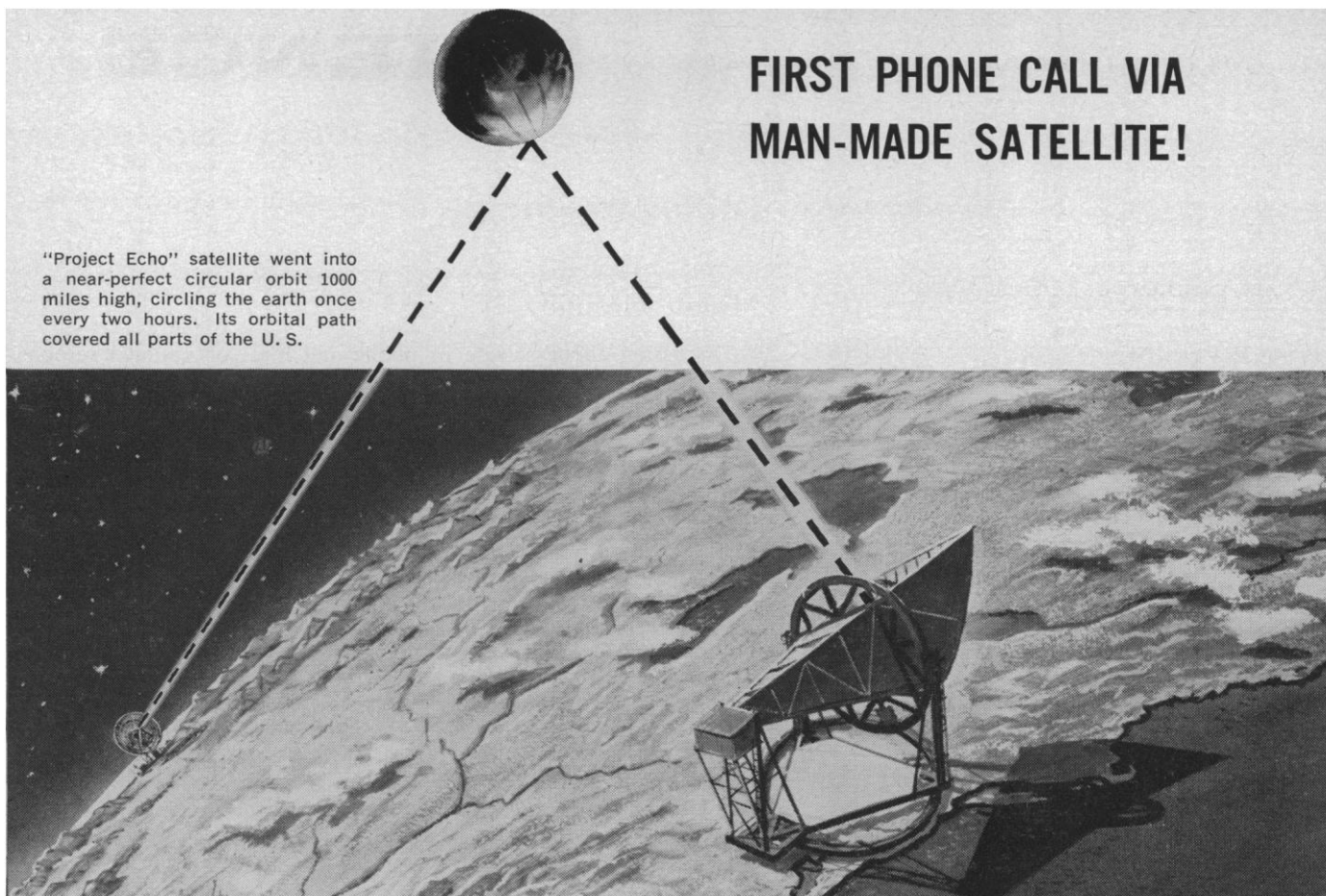
Discussion about private or public and local or national responsibility for education, for housing, and for health is often carried on as though there were no middle ground, as though the choice lay between extremes.

Any appraisal of the way things actually work will show, however, an intimate blending of private and public, local and national, responsibilities. A good example is the way methods have been evolved for dealing with poisoning by toxic substances.

In older and simpler days the local physician could be expected to know how to deal effectively with the relatively few poisons—lye, aspirin, kerosene, and so on—that might be ingested. With the introduction of scores of new insecticides, chemotherapeutic agents, and detergents—to mention only a few of the estimated 250,000 toxic or potentially toxic products now available to consumers—the problem of appropriate treatment has increased enormously. The infant or child of today (and more than 90 percent of all poisoning victims are children) has a much greater opportunity than his predecessors did to ingest toxic liquid and solid materials not intended for his consumption. A survey by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1951 showed that accidental poisoning accounted for more than half of all emergency cases handled by pediatricians. It was recognition of the seriousness of this problem that led to the formation of the first Poison Control Center in Chicago in 1953. The center became a focus of community effort in the prevention of poisoning and in the accumulation of information about symptoms and treatment. Other major cities followed Chicago's lead, and by 1956 centers had been established in 38 cities.

This widespread response at the local level led to recognition of the need for national coordination. Representatives of the control centers, industry, the American Medical Association, and state and federal government got together at a meeting of the American Public Health Association and recommended that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare set up a National Clearing House for Poison Control Centers. Such a clearing house was established in 1957. It collects information about poisons and possible poisons in new products, from the control centers, from industry, and from other sources, and supplies this information free to the local centers, which now number more than 400. Many of the local centers report all cases of poisoning in their communities—some 2000 per month—to the clearing house. The accumulation and analysis of this information permits study of the epidemiology of poisoning, detection of new hazards, and extension of knowledge of human toxicology. This information is, in turn, made available to all control centers and to the medical profession in general.

This pragmatic, nondoctrinaire approach has been carried a step further. The centers have organized themselves into the American Association of Poison Control Centers, which, on 18 October, accepted a set of standards for the operation and designation of centers. Thus the federal government neither controls nor licenses the local centers; it merely furnishes all of them with information necessary to their effective operation.—G.DuS.



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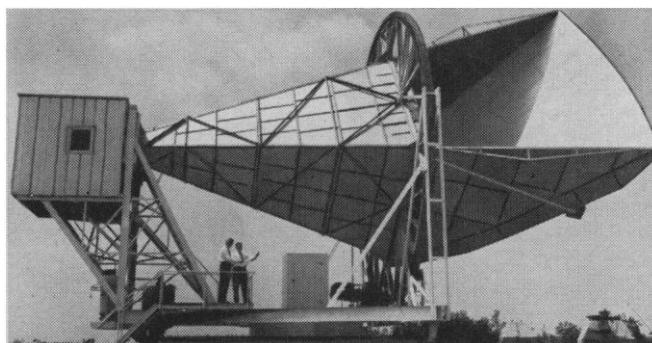
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5. The programs of all 18 AAAS Sections (specialized symposia and contributed papers).
6. The programs of the national meetings of the American Astronomical Society, American Nature Study Society, American Society of Zoologists, History of Science Society, National Association of Biology Teachers, Scientific Research Society of America, Sigma Delta Epsilon, Society for General Systems Research, Society for the Study of Evolution, Society for the History of Technology, Society of Systematic Zoology, and the Society of the Sigma Xi.
7. The multi-session special programs of the American Association of Clinical Chemists, American Astronautical Society, American Geophysical Union, American Physiological Society, American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Criminology, Association of American Geographers, Ecological Society of America, Mycological Society of America, National Science Teachers Association, New York Academy of Sciences—and still others, a total of some 90 participating organizations.
8. The four-session program of the Conference on Scientific Communication: The Sciences in Communist China, cosponsored by the AAAS, NSF, and ten societies.
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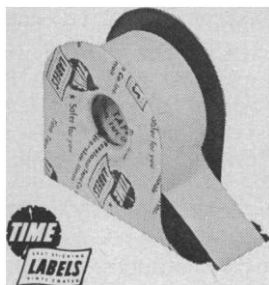
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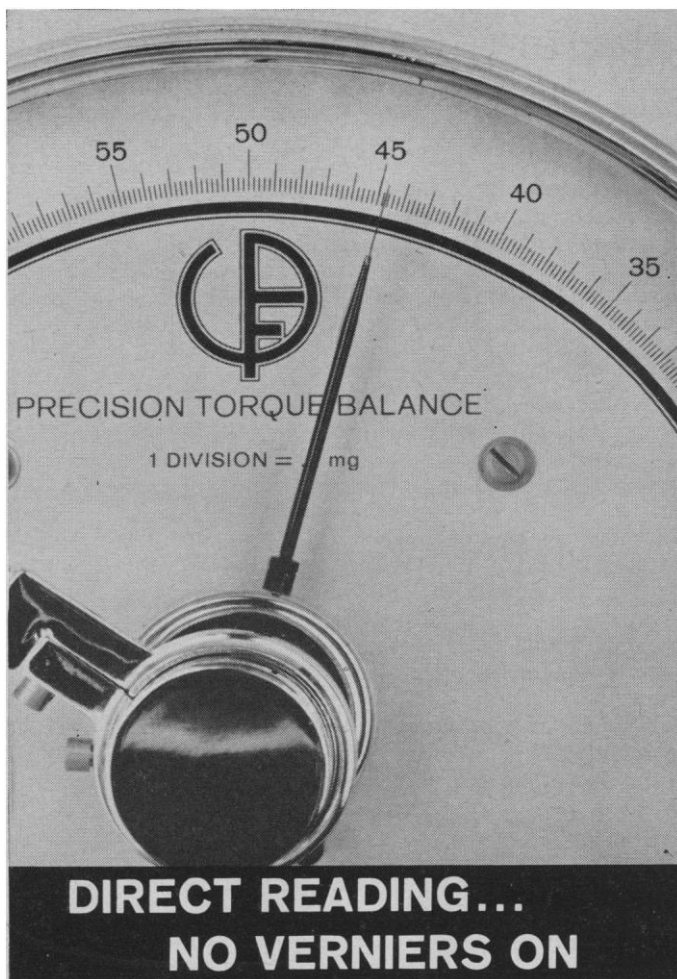


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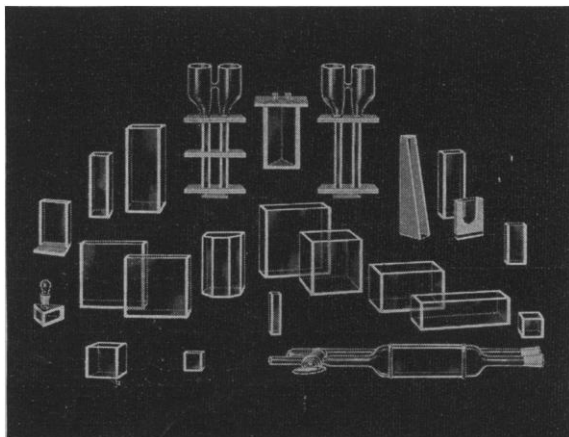
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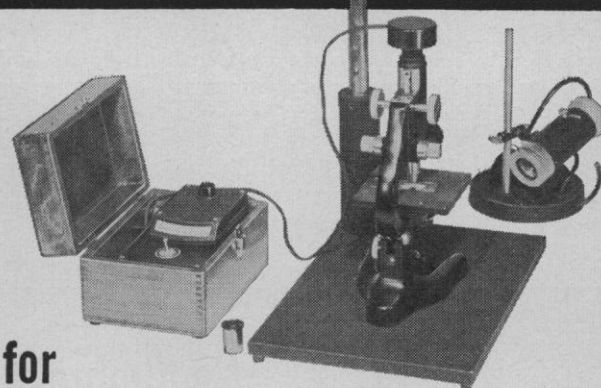


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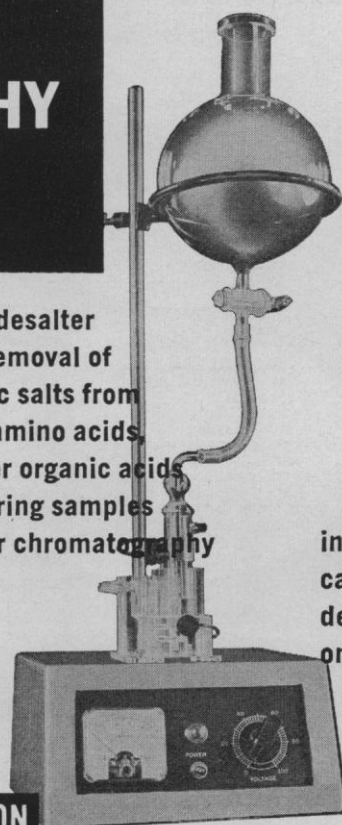
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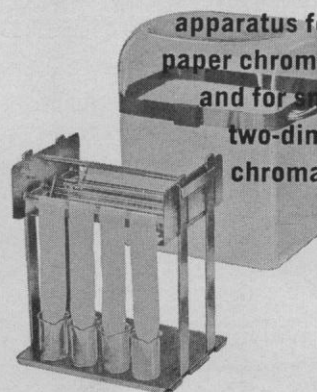
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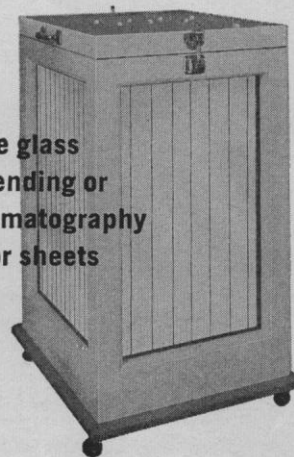
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As far as can be determined now, these data do *not* confirm the paleomagnetic observations of either Irving or Runcorn, both of whom have contributed extensively to the cause of paleomagnetic measurement and to its concomitant result of polar wandering through the ages [Irving, "Rock Magnetism: A new approach to the problems of polar wandering and continental drift," symposium, Univ. of Tasmania (1958), pp. 24-57; Runcorn, *Advances in Phys.* 4, 244 (1955)]. Probably no other single line of investigation has done so much as this geophysical procedure to advance the cause of con-

tinental shifting and polar wandering. Certainly such confirmation studies by many eminent and thoroughly competent workers such as Runcorn, Irving, E. R. Deutsch, B. W. Wilson and R. H. Nanz, Jr., J. Hospers, A. Cox and R. R. Doell, and many others have elevated the hypothesis to a respectable level from its limbo of derision.

Strong support for the hypothesis of continental shifting and polar wandering has also been derived from many other sources. One of the more spectacular contributions are the paleoclimatic studies of G. W. Bain based on the "inalienable characteristics of the different

latitudinal zones" which control life types, air circulation, ocean currents, and energy distributions in a major sense. When these characteristics are applied to ancient environments, interpretations show "shifts in the zones of high and low sun of about 90 degrees. . . ."

Finally, the oceanographic investigations by M. Ewing and B. Heezen of Lamont Geological Observatory have shed great light upon the geophysics of the ocean floor and the crust, as well as upon the ubiquitous oceanic ridges which more or less bisect the major oceans. These data have supplied precise and provocative knowledge of a once largely unknown quantity and seem to have added support to the contention of an expanding earth. As a result, a positive mechanism has been suggested by S. Warren Carey by means of which not only continental shifting may be accomplished, but also many of the observable tectonic features of the earth's surface may be rationalized.

It must be reiterated in conclusion, however, that these propositions and *hypotheses are not yet proved*, persuasive and inviting as they may be. Much rigorous and critical work remains to be done in many areas, but major avenues of investigation have now been suggested and the way for future work has been clearly indicated. I sincerely hope that an ever-increasing number of workers will be stimulated and encouraged to undertake some facets of these studies. The challenge is cast and the goals are nearly infinite in scope and size. The quantity of data is enormous, but it is hoped that the forthcoming volume of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists giving the papers of the 1960 symposium will be an anchor point for future investigations.

The 1960 SEPM symposium brought together leading authorities in these fields of study: S. Warren Carey, University of Tasmania, geodesy and tectonics; S. K. Runcorn, University of Durham (England), geophysics; B. W. Wilson and R. H. Nanz, Jr., Shell Development Co., geophysics; E. R. Deutsch, Imperial Oil Co., geophysics; B. C. Heezen, Lamont Geological Observatory, oceanography; G. W. Bain, Amherst College, paleoclimatology; Ting-Ying H. Ma, Taiwan University, paleontology; K. E. Caster, University of Cincinnati, paleontology; S. C. Nordeng, Michigan Tech., paleontology; W. L. Donn, Lamont Geological Observatory, glaciology; W. C. Gussow, Union Oil Co., tectonics; D. Swartz and D. D. Arden, Sohio Petroleum Co., tectonics.

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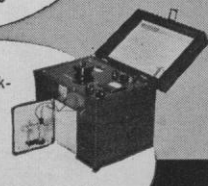
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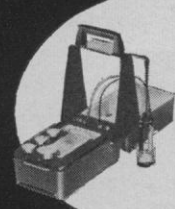
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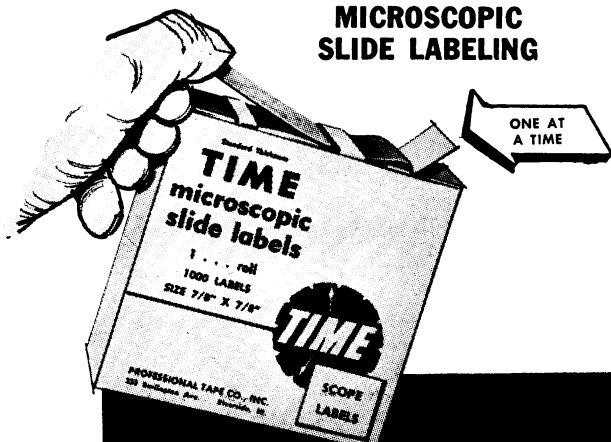
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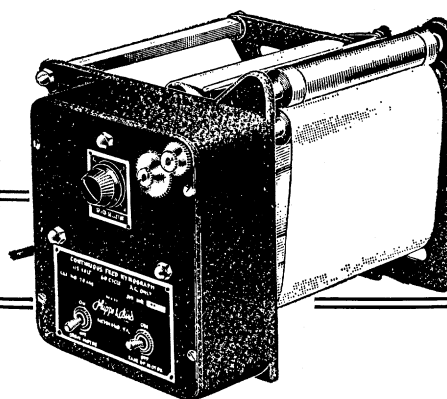
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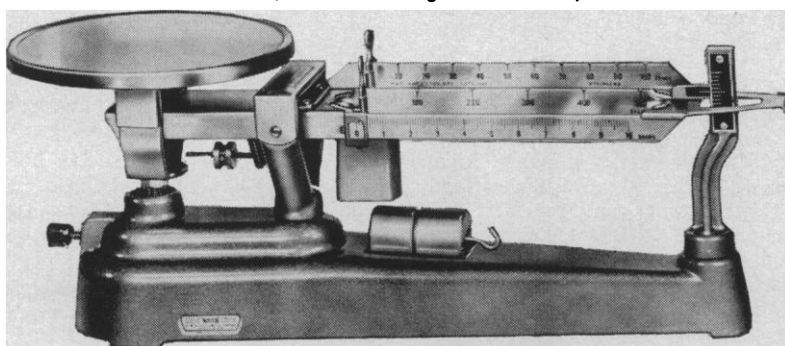
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Forthcoming Events

November

17-20. American Anthropological Assoc., Minneapolis, Minn. (B. J. Meggers, 1530 P St., NW, Washington 5)

17-20. Southern Thoracic Surgical Assoc., Nassau, Bahamas. (H. H. Seiler, 517 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 6, Fla.)

18-19. American Medical Writers' Assoc., Chicago, Ill. (H. Swanberg, 510 Maine St., Quincy, Ill.)

21-23. Fluid Dynamics, annual, Baltimore, Md. (R. J. Emrich, Div. of Fluid Dynamics, APS, Dept. of Physics, Lehigh Univ., Bethlehem, Pa.)

24-25. American Physical Soc., Chicago, Ill. (K. K. Darrow, APS, 538 W. 120 St., New York 27)

24-26. Central Assoc. of Science and Mathematics Teachers, 60th annual conv., Detroit, Mich. (L. A. Conrey, School of Education, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

25-26. American Soc. of Animal Production, Chicago, Ill. (C. E. Terrill, Animal Husbandry Research Div., Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.)

25-26. National Council for Geographic Education, Cincinnati, Ohio. (L. Kennemer, Univ. of Texas, Austin)

25-26. Bahamas Medical Conf., Nassau. (B. L. Frank, P.O. Box 4037, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

27-1. Latin American Cong. of Neurology, Santiago, Chile. (R. Nunez, Almirante Montt 485, Dep. 11, Santiago)

27-2. American Soc. of Mechanical Engineers, annual, New York, N.Y. (A. B. Conlin, Jr., ASME, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18)

27-5. International Federation of Agricultural Producers, 11th conf., New Delhi, India. (IFAP, 1624 Eye St., NW, Washington 6)

28-1. Entomological Soc. of America, Atlantic City, N.J. (R. H. Nelson, 4603 Calvert Rd., College Park, Md.)

29-2. American Medical Assoc., Washington, D.C. (F. Blasingame, 1535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Ill.)

30-2. Steels in Reactor Pressure Circuits, symp., London, England. (Secretary, Iron and Steel Inst., 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1)

December

1-16. Commission for Climatology, 3rd session, London, England. (World Meteorological Organization, Campagne Rigot, 1, avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland)

2-5. Central American Medical Conf., 8th, Panama City. (A. Bissot, Departamento de Salud Publica, Ministerio de Trabajo, Prevision Social y Salud Publica, Panama)

3-6. Visual Communications, 4th annual intern. cong., Chicago, Ill. (Visual Communications Cong., 10600 Puritan Ave., Detroit 38, Mich.)

3-8. American Acad. of Dermatology and Syphilology, Chicago, Ill. (R. R. Kierland, First National Bank Building, Rochester, Minn.)

4-6. Spectroscopy, annual southern seminar, Gainesville, Va. (Annual Seminar on Spectroscopy, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville)

4-7. American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, annual, Washington, D.C. (F. J.

Van Antwerpen, AICE, 25 W. 45 St., New York 36)

4-9. Radiological Soc. of North America, Cincinnati, Ohio. (D. S. Childs, 713 E. Genesee St., Syracuse 2, N.Y.)

5-7. American Soc. of Agricultural Engineers, winter, Memphis, Tenn. (J. L. Butt, 420 Main St., St. Joseph, Mich.)

5-7. Electronic Industries Assoc., 3rd conf. on maintainability of electronic equipment, San Antonio, Tex. (E. B. Harwood, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Room 3D1018, Pentagon, Washington 25)

5-8. American Rocket Soc., 15th annual, Washington, D.C. (R. L. Hohl, ARS, 500 Fifth Ave., New York 36)

7-13. American Acad. of Optometry, San Francisco, Calif. (C. C. Koch, 1506-08 Foshay Tower, Minneapolis 2, Minn.)

9-10. The Myocardium—Its Biochemistry and Biophysics, New York, N.Y. (A. P. Fishman, New York Heart Assoc., 10 Columbus Circle, New York 19)

9-11. American Psychoanalytic Assoc., New York, N.Y. (D. Beres, 151 Central Park West, New York 23)

10-11. Academy of Psychoanalysis, New York, N.Y. (J. H. Merin, 125 E. 65 St., New York 21)

11-14. Hot Laboratory and Equipment Conf., 8th, San Francisco, Calif. (J. R. Lilienthal, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, P.O. Box 1663, Los Alamos, N.M.)

12-14. American Nuclear Soc. (Isotopes and Radiation Div.), San Francisco, Calif. (O. J. Du Temple, ANS, 86 E. Randolph St., Chicago 1, Ill.)

12-14. Water Pollution, natl. conf., Washington, D.C. (Natl. Conf. on Water Pollution, F. A. Butrico, Office of Engineering Resources, Div. of Engineering Services, U.S. Public Health Service, Washington 25)

12-16. Atomic Industrial Forum, conf., San Francisco, Calif. (D. J. Scherer, 3 E. 54 St., New York 22)

13-15. Eastern Joint Computer Conf., New York, N.Y. (E. C. Kubie, EJCC, Computer Usage Co., Inc., 18 E. 41 St., New York 17)

19-20. Statistical Mechanics, conf., London, England. (Organizing Secretary, Physical Soc., 1, Lowther Gardens, London)

22-2. Panamerican Diabetic Congress, 1st, British Honduras. (B. R. Hearst, Director, Diabetic Inst. of America, 55 E. Washington St., Suite 1646, Chicago, Ill.)

26-30. Inter-American Cong. of Psychology, 7th, Havana, Cuba. (G. M. Gilbert, Psychology Dept., Long Island Univ., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.)

26-31. American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, annual, New York, N.Y. (R. L. Taylor, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5)

27-14. Bahamas Surgical Conf., Nassau. (B. L. Frank, P.O. Box 4037, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

28. Association for Education in International Business, St. Louis, Mo. (J. N. Behrman, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, Delaware)

28-30. American Economic Assoc., St. Louis, Mo. (J. W. Bell, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, Ill.)

28-30. Econometric Soc., St. Louis, Mo. (R. Ruggles, Dept. of Economics, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn.)

(See issue of 21 October for comprehensive list)