



A Noble Approach to an Old Problem

Edison was first.

He converted heat to electricity in a vacuum tube back in '83. But there was a barrier. We're knocking it down.

In a gas-filled thermionic tube, electrons can be boiled off of an emitter and directed to a collector, giving current flow. But only briefly. Then a cloud of electrons forms in the path . . . a space charge inhibiting further flow.

One way to get rid of this barrier is to neutralize it with positive ions, charged atoms of some gas. Many experimenters use vaporized cesium. But its atoms impede electron flow, requiring close interelectrode spacing. So GM Research physicists chose some of the noble gases—argon, neon, and xenon. They offer less impedance.

Our experimental emitter is a mixture of fissionable material and good electron-emitting material. Exposed to a neutron barrage in a reactor, the emitter gets hot from its own nuclear fission, sending electrons toward the collector. This same fission produces fragments that bombard the noble gas, generating ions to counteract the space charge.

We have developed a theory to predict the ion generation rate and have experimental data that backs it up. We think we understand why and how things happen.

General Motors is in the energy conversion business. The direct conversion of heat to electricity, with a device having no moving parts, interests us.

General Motors Research Laboratories

Warren, Michigan



Characteristics of tubes filled with gases ionized by fission fragments. Resulting current is a function of ion generation rate, which is increased greatly (from 1.8 to 2.6 x 10^{16} ions per cm³ per sec) by small addition of argon.



AT BETHLEHEM STEEL'S HOMER RESEARCH LABORATORIES... Mettler helps blend raw materials for better steel

Side by side on the same marble table, a Mettler B-6 analytical balance and an M-5 microbalance are in virtually continuous use in the coal chemistry laboratory. Here some of the raw materials used in Bethlehem's blast furnaces are tested to achieve the best blend for the most economical production of highquality steels.

Precise and rapid analytical information is essential to proper blending. Coal for coking may come from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or Kentucky; carbon content may vary from 75 to 90%. Each batch of coal poses its own individual problems.

The B-6 is used in proximate analysis to establish the direction for carrying out ultimate analysis. The microbalance is used for weighing absorption tubes in the ultimate carbon-hydrogen analysis, picking up weight differences in the microgram range. Together, they provide Bethlehem with a broad range of information in the shortest time possible. In addition to raw materials analysis, Bethlehem's Research group also works with experimental materials as part of other research projects. Some of the carbonization and coke testing methods developed here, particularly those dealing with coal in the plastic temperature range, have been widely adopted throughout the steel industry.

More than 100 Mettler balances are found throughout the facilities of the huge Homer Research Laboratories, helping to make best use of the raw materials available, ultimately permitting Bethlehem to make better steel.

Learn about the advantages that Mettler balances can bring to your production as well as to your research projects. Request product information, a demonstration, or an instrument to try out in your own facilities. Write Mettler Instrument Corporation, 20 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

TILLIELLI @

7 October 1966

Vol. 154, No. 3745

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COVER

The shell of the Devonian brachiopod, *Pholidostrophia nacrea* (Hall), has a layered, crossed, lamellar structure. The calcite needles in each layer commonly indent one another and produce a surface that is an optical diffraction grating; hence the shell has a pseudonacreous luster (\times approximately 710). See page 153. [K. M. Towe and C. W. Harper, Jr., Smithsonian Institution]



MP Tandem Test Facility at High Voltage Engineering Corporation.

SCIENCE, VOL. 154

From HVEC's research program for increasing tandem accelerator flexibility:

New developments extend research capabilities of heavy-ion accelerators.

High Voltage Engineering's expanded research and development efforts are geared to provide greater flexibility for present accelerator research programs, and pave the way for the new, higher-energy heavy-ion tandems of the future.

Research conducted this past summer with the company's new 'Emperor' (MP) Tandem Accelerator, for example, has concentrated on the development of several new concepts. These include:

A new ion-beam injector system, capable of handling a wide range of elements up to and including uranium.
 New internal focusing lenses designed to channel and direct charged particle beams with greater precision and efficiency.

New solid-state "dust" strippers capable of providing significant quantities of heavy ions at energies higher than ever before possible.
A new beam-analyzing system, composed of magnetic and electrostatic components to provide researchers with a homogeneous beam of ions of known mass, energy, and charge.

New developments like these are typical examples of progress in ac-

celerator capabilities from HVEC, recognized leader in particle accelerator and related technologies. For additional information and technical literature on tandem accelerators write to:

High Voltage Engineering Corporation, Burlington, Massachusetts, 01803 (Tel: 617-272-2800) or Amersfoort, The Netherlands.



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Since the sodium doublet falls at the most compressed point of the spectrum, isn't it impossible to split it with a single prism spectrophotometer? Indeed it is, with one exception—the Zeiss Spectrophotometer PMQ II. Above is an actual PMQ II resolution of the most demanding doublet. Distance between peaks is approximately 6 Å.

You're looking at an impossibility

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WEST GERMANY

ANALOG MONOLOGUE

On Means for Modelling, Measuring, Manipulating, & Much Else

INTENTIONALLY-NONLINEAR ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS

Imagine, for a moment, that your mathematical training had ended somewhere in the first year of Algebra, before you had mastered anything more complicated than a first-order linear equation. Imagine also that you had no knowledge of trigonometry, logarithms, or exponentials. Would such mathematical innocence hamper your present work?

Probably it would — unless your role is supervisory, speculative, or purely empirical. And even then, would you be able to discuss and evaluate the work of others, without a grasp of the everyday mathematical language in which they thought, wrote, and spoke? Of course not.

So it is with electronic measurement and data manipulation . . . for what is measurement, but a form of understanding? (. . . to paraphrase Lord Kelvin.) If the circuits one uses are limited to the handful that are linear in response (useful and powerful as they are), the range of measurement and data processing one can perform with them is correspondingly limited. Fortunately, we need not accept such a crippling restriction; hundreds of practical nonlinear circuits already exist, having been devised and perfected for use in the Analog Computing realm.

The kind of nonlinearity we mean is a deliberate, preciselycontrolled relationship in a circuit — for example, a logarithmic input/output response — and *not* the unintentional, unavoidable, and undesired deviation of a nominally-linear circuit from perfect linearity . . . an imperfection to be avoided or minimized by careful design. Useful nonlinearity may be as natural to a circuit as is a linear response, and $y = A (x + B)^2$ may be reproduced with almost as great fidelity as y = A (x + B).

The circuit below, one of more than 200 in the Philbrick Applications Manual, shows how the function A x^2 may be embodied, using an Operational Amplifier and a Quadratic Transconductor. It also indicates the almost trivial circuit change required for square root computations.



Nonlinear circuits are neither as simple conceptually nor as economical as linear adders or voltage-to-current transducers — but, thanks to the creative efforts of workers in many fields, *they are just as easy to use*. Standard hardware, in the form of nonlinear feedback-network packages, is available for the generation of almost any conventional nonlinear higher-order response, whether or not it can be described by a simple equation.

Table 1 indicates (but by no means covers) the range and variety of useful nonlinear functions and operations that may be constructed with standard Philbrick Amplifiers and Transconductors.

Exponential and Boot Functions
Exponential and Root Functions
Multiplication and Division
Linearization of Transducer Outputs
Trigonometric Functions
Coordinate Transformations
Vector Resolution and Composition
Logarithmic Compression and Expansion
True RMS Computation

Table 1

Table 2 lists the most popular of our Transconductors.

(P)PL1	Dual Logarithmic Transconductor(diode or transdiode)				
$(\mathbf{P})\mathbf{PL2}$	Quadruple Logarithmic Transconductor (transdiode)				
(P)PL3	Quadruple Logarithmic Transconductor (diode)				
PPL4	Logarithmic Transconductor temperature compensated				
SPL4	Logarithmic Transconductor temperature compensated (built-in control)				
SPL4A	Logarithmic Transconductor — temperature compensated (built-in control and amplifier)				
SPLR	Log-Ratio Transconductor				
SPLRA	Log-Ratio Transconductor (built-in amplifier)				
SPLOG	Logarithmic Transconductor				
PSQ	Quadratic Transconductor				
SPSIN	Sinusoidal Transconductor				
SPCOS	Sinusoidal Transconductor				
SPFX	Arbitrary Function Fitter (adjustable)				
Note: All standard designs, except $(P)PL3$ are available in either negative or positive polarity.					

Table 2

Perhaps this space has been barely sufficient to communicate to you the power of nonlinear instrument circuits. If so, it only serves to underscore our underlying thesis — that the uses of electronic analog technology deserve far greater exposition, and hence appreciation, than they now enjoy . . . despite their many conquests.

You can start today to put more mathematical versatility into your measurements and data processing. Send for our free literature package MBA 2. Better (and faster) yet — call your nearest Philbrick Field Engineer. He'll give you the straight story on nonlinearity. Or write to Philbrick Researches, Inc., 25-S Allied Drive at Route 128, Dedham, Massachusetts. Phone (617) 329-1600.

*A Transconductor is an active or passive network of which the short-circuit output current is a specific, accurately known, often non-linear function of the input voltage.

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Electron micrograph and diffraction pattern taken on the HU-11C showing the crossed lattice images of the (200) planes of gold. The (020) and (200) planes = 2.04 Angstroms. The (220) plane = 1.44 Angstroms. All important factors such as contamination, stage drift, astigmatism and aberrations must be negligible to achieve this ultra-high resolution. The HU-11C was operated at an accelerating voltage of 100 KV and an electron optical magnification of 270,000 X. The illumination was tilted until the three reflections showed nearly equal intensity in the diffraction pattern; then the micrograph was taken.

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7 OCTOBER 1966



Scope of Coleman Nitrogen Analyzer extended to 20 ppm in trace studies by Chevron Research Company*

* Chevron Research Company is the research arm of Standard Oil of California. Results of the work are reported in "Automatic Dumas Nitrogen Analysis of Lubricating Oils and Additives," by Farley, Guffy and Winkler, ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, Vol. 36, Page 1061, May 1964. Reprints and product literature are available from Coleman Instruments Corporation.

With the Coleman Model 29 Nitrogen Analyzer, trace quantities of nitrogen in lubricating oils and additives are determined at Chevron Research and in an increasing number of the Chevron Chemical Company^{**} (Oronite) customers' laboratories. With only slight procedure modifications, the instrument is being used with samples containing as little as 0.2% nitrogen.

At lower nitrogen levels—down as far as 20 ppm—a specially-developed concentration technique provides adsorption of the nitrogen compounds on alumina. The trace analyses are then made on this nitrogen-bearing absorbent.

Expanded use of nitrogen-containing additives in lubricating oils brought increased interest in nitrogen determination, a convenient method for correct preparation of additives and for proper product blending.

Prior to the use of the Coleman Nitrogen Analyzer in this application, Chevron Research employed alternate methods which left much to be desired from standpoints of speed, convenience and economy.

**Chemical marketing company of Standard Oil Company of California. With sample materials from rose petals to natural fertilizers, from industrial compounds to biological fluids, the unit is proving its versatility in laboratories throughout the world. It is equally valuable in process control and in research, in both the physical and life sciences.

If your work involves any aspect of nitrogen determination, investigate the Coleman Nitrogen Analyzer. Ask your laboratory supply dealer for a demonstration.

CONDENSED SPECIFICATIONS:				
Sample Size	Normally 5 to 50 mg; 1 to 500 mg or more, de- pending upon nitrogen content of sample.			
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Accuracy	Within 0.2% nitrogen at routine levels.			
Range	Accepts any sample that combusts at tempera- tures up to 1000°C.			

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Johnston Laboratories has perfected two instruments for tritium air and gamma area monitoring: the Model 755B Triton, and the more sensitive model 855 Triton. The Model 755B Triton accurately monitors airborne beta-emitting radioisotopes such as H³, C¹⁴, and Kr⁸⁵ or, alternatively, ambient low-level gamma radiation. The design of this instrument eliminates the errors usually associated with tritium air monitors and provides a new high level of accuracy and reliability. Its exceptional stability and sensitivity also permit analytical applications when incorporated into the closed atmospheric circuits of controlled environmental experiments. The 755B Triton may also be used as a low-level gamma monitor with much higher sensitivity than most gamma survey meters. For much more information: request bulletin 755B.

The Model 855 Triton, more sensitive than its progenitor above, is ideal where the measurement of extremely small amounts of gaseous radioactive contamination is a necessity. This instrument is particularly suited for monitoring the maximum permissible concentration of tritium in air $(5\mu c/M^3)$ since the sensitivity is $10 \ \mu c/M^3$ full scale. It can also serve to measure other beta emitters and is a very sensitive gamma area monitor too (.05 mr/hr. full scale). Ask for bulletin 855 for complete data.



Karyotyping as easy as:

It's tough enough to catch a good metaphase, break a cell, and hold the chromosomes intact. But even then you're only half way home.

You still have to photograph the specimen, process the negative, and make the enlargement before you can even begin to get down to the real business at hand — the analysis.

In organizing the Nikon Chromosome Photomicrographic Outfit, we didn't presume to simplify the preparative aspects of the technique, though we may have taken some of the uncertainty out of the interpretation. Essentially we reduced the photographic procedure to a simple, standardized routine.

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The outfit also includes a starter set of Karyotype forms, a Difco culture kit and a complete manual of instructions. No darkroom is required.

The Nikon Chromosome Outfit has so simplified the photographic procedure, it can be entrusted to any competent technician, leaving the cytogeneticist free to devote his time to the microscopy and the analysis. For complete details write to Nikon Inc., Instrument Division Garden City, N.Y. 11533 Subsidiary of Ehrenreich Photo-Optical Industries, Inc.





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pH Measurement

Teamwork: The basis of Radiometer systems for measuring and controlling pH.

The pH meter above is a Model 28, ready to measure pH accurately and dependably. It is typical of the several fine Radiometer models from which the one best meeting your particular requirements can be selected. The Titrators below are designed to team up with the pH meter either singly or in pairs.



One of these economically priced model 11s adds the facility to perform all types of end-point titrations automatically, or to control pH in one direction.

Two of them provide control to maintain a constant pH regardless of which way the pH is changing.

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TITRATOR 11

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Do you need reproducibility to 0.002 pH? Our new meter delivers it.

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Not only does it give you directreading to $\pm 1/1000$ pH on the one-pH span, it also has these capabilities...

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- 0 to 14 pH range
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- Manual temperature compensation on 1, 2, and 14 pH range

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The one-pH span provides the added readability required in such critical measurements as pH of blood and body fluids, where minute changes are highly significant. The two-pH span minimizes range-changing and simplifies checking against buffers. The 0 to 14 pH range and millivolt spans and ranges provide the additional flexibility to meet generalpurpose requirements.

And like the other A-2 Series meters, the 7407 also features a photoconductive chopper, feedback-stabilized amplifier, hand-wiring, highly-responsive meter with taut-band suspension and 7" scale, Karl Fischer circuitry, and output terminals for recorder display.

For full details on this or any of the A-2 Series meters, and the name of the laboratory pH dealer nearest you, write to: Leeds & Northrup Co., 4926 Stenton Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144.





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The second, MIKRO KLENE, is an iodophor detergent germicide that gives you the ultimate in disinfection results. It is recommended for use in cages where animals are being used for experimentation with dangerous infectious diseases and a fast, positive bacterial kill is required. Like MIKRO-QUAT, it is completely harmless to animals.

Use of the MIKRO-SPRAY system, of course, is not limited to just in-place cage cleaning. It is equally effective in disinfecting and deodorizing cage racks, walls and floors of the cage room and for general clean-up duties in the incinerator and waste disposal room. Send coupon today for new manual on environmental sanitation, including complete details on application of MIKRO-SPRAY system.

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SCIENCE, VOL. 154



Sonic Oscillators and Microwave Generators for Research Applications

Applications include: Bacterial and cellular disruption, dispersion and homogenization, free radical research, spectroscopy and interferometry.

Model DF 101 sonic oscillator is a low frequency magnetostriction unit designed for the rapid duplication of physiochemical reactions in laboratories. The unit may be used in a wide variety of industrial and laboratory research projects such as studying the effects of sonic energy on liquids, living organisms, mixtures and chemical solutions. Power output (driver to stand) is 250 watts, 1.2 amperes. Frequency is 10 KC (mominal). Power requirements are 110 @ 50-60 cycles, 750 w. Recommended capacity is 50 cc however the stand will contain up to 165 cc. Model PGM-10X2 microwave generator and its accessories are designed for the production of free radicals and the excitation of electrodeless discharge lamps in the fields of spectroscopy, raman spectroscopy and interferometry. Specifications: Power input—105-130 v @ 60 cycles, 385 watts. Power output—85 watts CW power at 2450 \pm 25 MHz and/or variable pulse rate between 100—5000 Hz and duty cycle variable between 1% and 80%. The chosen operating frequency minimizes cleanup accumulation on the walls of the electrodeless lamps. The Model PGM-100 microwave generator fills the need for higher power. Specifications: Standard JAN waveguide RG $104/U \cdot Maximum CW$ power output 800 watts \cdot Fixed frequency, 2450 ± 25 MHz \cdot Modulation in the order of 10% or 120 Hz pulsed. The power output is constant through normal line fluctuations and variations of magnetron impedance with load and life. The unit contains a filter network that can be switched into the magnetron plate supply to provide a microwave power output with modulation of about 10% in the detected rf envelope.

Contact Raytheon Co., Sorensen Operation, Production Equipment Department, Richards Ave., Norwalk Conn. 06856. Tel: 203-838-6571.



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SCIENCE, VOL, 154

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SCIENCE, VOL. 154

EPR at Work No.39

EPR Spectroscopy has proven to be a useful technique for studying

EPR Spectroscopy has proven to be a useful technique for studying compounds and radical intermediates which have an unpaired elec-tron. The Varian V-4502 series is a proven workhorse for observations of this kind. The new E-3 is an easy, simple-to-operate system de-signed specifically for chemical and biological applications. Biomolecules that do not contain an unpaired electron will not re-spond in EPR studies. However, with sensitive EPR spectrometers, able to clearly detect the behavior of free radicals, such inert bio-logical and chemical compounds can be studied when they are chemically bonded to a stable free radical. This radical or spin label chemically bonded to a stable free radical. This radical, or spin label, produces a sharp, well-resolved, and simple paramagnetic reson-ance spectrum highly sensitive to the environment of the molecule.

Spin Labels for **Biomolecules**

EXAMPLE: "Tagged" molecules by chemical reaction with stable spin systems.

Most materials of biological and chemical interest do not contain an unpaired electron spin (in their ground states) and are not useful for EPR studies. Many of these materials can be studied with EPR methods by either oxidizing or reducing them. Recently, a more general method has been developed by McConnell et al,1,2,3 who have "tagged" molecules by chemical reaction with stable spin systems, somewhat in analogy to customary fluorescence labeling. All tagging or labeling methods are useful in determining the mere presence or absence of the tagged compound. In addition, spin labeling offers several intrinsic advantages over other methods: The EPR technique has very high sensitivity; the spin label provides a microprobe for examination of the local environment; and the motion of the tagged species affects the observed spectrum.

As an example, the reversible change of Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) as the pH is lowered was studied by spin labeling methods. The molecule BSA was reacted chemically with a spin label, which in this case was a stable nitroxide molecule similar to that shown in Figure 1. In a pure solution of the spin label, three sharp well resolved hyperfine lines are observed, arising from coupling to the nitrogen nucleus (I=1). The lines are sharp because rapid

motion in solution averaged the anisotropic hyperfine interactions. The spectrum of spin labeled BSA is shown in Figure 2. McConnell et al have shown that this spectrum arises from spin labels bound in two different environments of the BSA molecule, one site where considerable motion of the nitroxide radical is permitted giving rise to 3 narrow lines, and one site where the spin label is more tightly bound to the BSA molecule and an anisotropically broadened spectrum is obtained. Here the spin label presumably is bound to a region of restricted access in the BSA molecule.

As the pH is lowered, the BSA molecule is uncoiled in such a manner that the broad anisotropic portion of the spectrum arising from the tightly bound spin labels decreases in intensity. At the same time the intensity of the 3 narrow hyperfine lines arising from more freely moving spin labels increases. Figure 3 shows the pH dependency for the process, which is envisaged as an opening up of the protein BSA.

Spin labels are currently being considered for other applications such as kinetic rate determinations and study of the environments close to reaction sites, e.g. enzymes.

Stone, Buckman, Nordio, McConnell, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. 54, 1010, (1965);
 Griffith and McConnell, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. 55, 8, (1966);
 Lawrence, Berliner and McConnell, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. 55, 708, (1966).





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SCIENCE, VOL. 154



A sweeping new development in food chemistry

The item above is our new Kontes Sweep Co-Distillation Apparatus*.

It provides a new, highly effective sample clean-up method for crude extracts prior to analysis by GLC**.

The Kontes Co-Distiller cleans up to 2g of crude extract in as little as twenty minutes—with substantially improved recovery rates over column methods and drastic reduction in costly purifying solvents.

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Cleaning up the apparatus is an equally simple process that takes about ten minutes.

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Sweep away most of your sample cleanup problems by contacting your Kontes representative or by writing for more information.

*Patent pending

**Reference J. O. A. C., Vol. 48, Dec. 1965, "A Sweep Co-Distillation Clean-up Method for Organophosphate Pesticides", by R. W. Storherr & R. R. Watts. ® Trademark of Du Pont



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Uridine-2-C¹⁴ 5'-Monophosphate Form: Diammonium Salt NEC-404 Sp. Act. 20-30 mc/mM Price: \$40/10μc \$150/50μc \$300/0.1mc

Uridine-C¹⁴ (u.l.) 5'-Monophosphate Form: Diammonium Salt NEC-369 Sp. Act. > 200 mc/mM Price: \$55/10μc \$200/50μc \$400/0.1mc

Uridine-2-C¹⁴ 5'-Triphosphate Form: Tetralithium Salt NEC-430 Sp. Act. 20-30 mc/mM Price: \$50/10µc \$200/50µc \$400/0.1mc

Uridine-C¹⁴ (u.l.) 5'-Triphosphate Form: Tetralithium Salt NEC-433 Sp. Act. > 200 mc/mM Price: \$55/10µc \$225/50µc \$450/0.1mc

Fall 1966 Listings. Technical Data supplied upon request.



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The new ADVANCE 6130, ready for delivery at \$34,500...



...we used to call it the "paper tiger"

Last July we announced the *ADVANCE* 6130, specially designed for real-time data acquisition and control applications.

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ter. Yet, the care given at the center is described as being no better than that at Denver General Hospital, which, by insinuation, is poor. Or as stated, "neither much better nor much worse than most municipal hospitals." In the future I would suggest that

all relevant sources of information be sought before writing such an article. Visiting Denver General Hospital and discussing the subject with the manager of health and hospitals would have afforded the writer the opportunity to ascertain more of the facts.

The article appears to praise the cen-

DAVID L. COWEN

Department of Health and Hospitals, West Sixth Avenue and Cherokee Street, Denver 4, Colorado

Langer's article strikes me as one of the more perceptive analyses of the importance of local health service programs in the current OEO-sponsored antipoverty programs. Its discussion of the center's impact on the scope, quality, and tone of health services made available to an urban minority group, of its impact on political and professional interest groups, and of its utilization of a combination of nonprofessional and professional personnel, among other points, made the article extremely useful for our classes in social welfare policy.

Philip Booth

School of Social Work, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 48104

Population Stabilization

John Walsh's discussion of the foodpopulation balance (News and Comment, 13 May, p. 896) again emphasized the overwhelming need for controlling world population. Wars and famine are but two examples of world problems that are intensified by population pressures. A 1965 Gallup Poll indicated that only 60 percent of Americans regard overpopulation as a major world problem. The Office of Economic Opportunity is reluctant to support progressive family planning programs because of possible negative public response. Therein lies the role and obligation of the scientific community: to learn about and to teach the need for population stabilization.

The combined efforts of the biologist, chemist, mathematician, physicist, geologist and meteorologist could

greatly improve community understanding of overpopulation and its consequences. One lecture, or part of a lecture, each semester by each Science reader would help shape the political atmosphere that is essential before our government can launch an international program. High school and university students would quickly grasp the seriousness of the situation when confronted with the demographic facts. Though birth control has been commonly considered a personal matter for each individual and his family, this will be less true in the future. Some people believe that a massive international program of family planning methods would corrupt youth. This does not follow. The seeds of morality are planted elsewhere and do not depend on the availability or denial of information for their nourishment. The point is that citizens of every nation must learn about the international consequences of unchecked population increases, and have a knowledge of basic family planning methods. In thirty years, Vietnam, Korea, and Cuba will be incidents in history books, but with a population twice that of the present one, the world may be in interminable chaos.

DAVID B. VAN VLECK Department of Biology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124

Tenure in 1897

Occasionally, it is almost a relief to look back, perhaps three score years and ten, to find a few real problems existed in those older days as well as today. The following postcard, addressed to the late Frank Smith, then an assistant professor at the University of Illinois, may underscore one such worry about the future:

My dear Smith: I was much pleased to receive your paper on the Oligochaeta yesterday. It rejoices one to realize how you are prospering. I can hardly help but envy you such a good solid place. Zoologists are getting terribly frequent nowadays and it makes me speculate about the future. However, I am having a fine time now. I am expecting to go down to Naples before long, to stay till the middle of July. Yours,

H. S. Jennings

Jena, Germany February 22, 1897

WILLIAM R. MURCHIE Department of Biology, University of Michigan, Flint College 48503

SCIENCE, VOL. 154



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New Quarks for Physics

Thanks to Willy Ley for pointing out (Letters, 22 July) that "quark" is German for "a somewhat gluey cottage cheese" (or even trash or rubbish). Long ago Goethe foresaw the need for this word when he wrote the prologue to *Faust*. Mephistopheles, sojourning in heaven, cynically describes man's insatiable curiosity and concludes: "In jeden Quark begräbt er seine Nase." (He sticks his nose in every quark.)

The German and Faustian origin of *quark* is obviously so much more appropriate, despite the slander, that McMillan and Murray Gell-Mann may wish to reconsider the origin of the physicists' quark!

DAVID E. LAIRD

Physics Department, Cincinnati Country Day School, 6905 Given Road, Ohio 45243

Support the Theoretical Thinkers!

Regarding Greenberg's article (News and Comment, 24 June, p. 1724) on "Basic research: the political tides are shifting" . . . the old category of "basic" ("fundamental," "pure") research is not good because it means different things to different persons. Really there are two kinds of so-called basic science that must be consideredinscribed (trivial, limited)-and theoretical. Inscribed science is simple factfinding science without any direct thoughts about established theories or without any new set of postulates in mind that might ultimately become a theory. When I try to learn the nutrient conditions that cause the tips of fungus filaments to lyse, I am engaged in inscribed (trivial) science because my thinking has not related the facts to established theory or to a new set of postulates that might develop into a theory. This kind of basic (inscribed, trivial) science is often on the same intellectual level as applied science. It is fascinating work because it satisfies one kind of curiosity. But this kind of nonapplied research should not be confused with truly theoretical work like that which produced the 1:1:1 hypothesis, the operon hypothesis (both of which should now be called theories), or the like.

Of the different kinds of science, theoretical science is the kind that should receive unstinted financial support because theories give us command of knowledge whether we choose to use the knowledge in practical applications or in the advancement of science. A quick review of the history of physics, chemistry, or biology will support this contention.

Within theoretical science are those men whose genius and drive permit them to build the frameworks of new incipient theories, new postulational-deductive systems. But who, in politics or in science, has the wit to recognize these men while they are in the early stages of formulating their ideas? Probably only a few other scientists and these men are seldom in a position to grant financial support. The greatest problem in the support of science is not whether you support basic or applied science, but rather, how do you support truly theoretical work?

RALPH W. LEWIS Department of Natural Science, Michigan State University, Lansing

A Tax-Saving Spin Off

In his contribution to contemporary etymology, Hines (Letters, 12 Aug.) deals successfully with the origins of A-OK and blast off, but fails with spin off, which he suspects is a NASA substitution for fallout.

I hasten to inform you that spin off has long meant a specific legal corporate fission process, followed when it is desirable to make two corporations out of one. It solves a genuine problem created by the capital gains tax. Some of the assets of the original corporation are spun off to the new. If a capital gains tax were assessed, that would be fallout from the fission. STUART T. MARTIN

P.O. Box 608, Burlington, Vermont

Touché

Non-nonwalking is something I enjoy, but only because I've had a college education. Otherwise, I would like plain walking.

In the same way, "nonincongruity" (Cover, 1 July) can be reduced to "congruity," a term respectable enough to be accepted in dictionaries. "Nonincongruity" seems to be a low character who has been justly ignored by lexicographers. HELEN CHURCHILL

Hollins College, Virginia

7 OCTOBER 1966



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Coping with the Information Explosion

There is divergent opinion concerning the seriousness of the information explosion. Many research workers minimize the importance of the problem. Established investigators find that most of their needs for information are met through participation in invisible colleges and scanning of the relatively few journals in which material of interest to them usually appears. Instead of spending time on more or less fruitless search among a vast number of journals, they gamble that their proposed research will not closely duplicate existing work. Usually their judgment is correct.

SCIENCE

On the other hand, some administrators believe that we are failing to utilize much of the vast amount of information available in 50,000 scientific journals. Some politicians seem to have an almost pathologic fear that research may be unwittingly duplicated. As a result, they have been willing to support all kinds of attempts to make scientific and technical information more readily available. Currently the federal government annually devotes \$250 million to such efforts. This sum substantially exceeds the funds allocated for all research project grants supported by the National Science Foundation.

In spite of the divergence of opinions concerning the information explosion, scientists and politicians agree that quick, selective information retrieval and dissemination are desirable. Progress toward these goals is being made by scores of organizations. One of the most interesting approaches has been made by a commercial concern, the Institute for Scientific Information, of Philadelphia. The Institute has, on magnetic computer tape, comprehensive information concerning current scientific periodicals, and it has devised effective means of using this resource. The coverage includes more than 1500 of the world's leading scientific journals, which in a year print more than 300,000 articles and perhaps over 90 percent of those reporting significant advances. The information concerning each article includes title, author or authors, and literature cited. Associated with the 300,000 articles are more than 3.3 million citations, 576,000 authors, and titles containing 2.1 million words. Altogether there are almost 10 million stored index items pertaining to the articles. A particularly useful tool in a search for significant articles in a particular field is the Citation Index. Authors usually cite literature that they feel is particularly relevant to their work. To learn what is new in a field one merely asks the computer for a list of published items that contain citations to previous important articles in that field. The computer can also be asked to supply a list of articles written by authors known to be active in a given area. Words or combinations of words in the title can also serve to identify items of interest.

A complete Citation Index, available quarterly, is bulky and contains more material than the average scientist wants. The Institute has a service much better designed to meet the needs of individuals. It is called Automatic Subject Citation Alert (ASCA). This service provides a weekly list of articles that have appeared in any of the 1500 scientific journals and that meet citation, author, or other indexing criteria that the user has provided.

An interesting by-product of the Citation Index is a new method of evaluating scientific productivity. Instead of counting a man's reprints, one counts citations of his work by others. Already sociologists are examining the value of this new analytical tool. They note some limitations but find that a citation index is a valuable aid to management. —PHILIP H. ABELSON



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(Continued from page 143)

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Applied Underwater Acoustics. D. G. Tucker and B. K. Gazey. Pergamon, New York, 1966. 260 pp. Illus. Paper, \$4.50. The Commonwealth and International Library.

Approximate Analysis of Randomly Excited Nonlinear Controls. Harold W. Smith. M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1966. 150 pp. Illus. \$7.50.

Atlas of Planetary Solar Climate. vol. 5. Clyde J. Bollinger. Bollinger Climatic Research Service, Norman, Okla., 1966. 112 pp. Illus. Paper.

Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy. James W. Robinson. Dekker, New York, 1966. 216 pp. Illus. \$9.75.

Atoms to Andromeda. S. T. Butler and H. Messel, Eds. Pergamon, New York, 1966. 301 pp. Illus. Paper, \$3.50. The Commonwealth and International Library. Fifteen lectures given at the 1966 Nuclear Research Foundation Summer Science School for High School Students.

Basic Chemistry: A Programmed Presentation. Stewart M. Brooks. Mosby, St. Louis, 1966. 145 pp. Illus. Paper, \$3.85.

Basic Matrix Analysis and Synthesis: With Applications to Electronic Engineering. G. Zelinger. Pergamon, New York, 1966. 244 pp. Illus. \$7.50.

Bituminous Materials: Asphalts, Tars, and Pitches. vol. 3, Coal Tars and Pitches. Arnold J. Hoiberg, Ed. Interscience (Wiley), New York, 1966. 603 pp. Illus. \$25. Fifteen papers.

Book of ASTM Standards: With Related Material. pt. 9, Cement; Lime; Gypsum (512 pp. \$9; members, \$6.30); pt. 16, Structural Sandwich Constructions; Wood; Adhesives (828 pp. \$14; members, \$9.80). American Soc. for Testing and Materials, Philadelphia, 1966. Illus.

Calculus. pt. 1. Edwin E. Moise. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Mass., 1966. 508 pp. Illus. \$8.95.

The Challenge of the Computer Utility. D. F. Parkhill. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Mass., 1966. 219 pp. Illus. \$7.95.

The Chemical Bond. J. J. Lagowski. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1966. 208 pp. Illus. Paper, \$2.95. Classic Researches in General Chemistry.

Chemical Data Book. G. H. Aylward and T. J. V. Findlay, Eds. Wiley, New York, ed. 2, 1966. 96 pp. Illus. Paper, \$2.95.

Chemical Kinetics in Homogeneous Systems. Mowbray Ritchie. Wiley, New York, 1966. 123 pp. Illus. Paper, \$2.95. University Chemical Texts.

Chemistry. John S. McAnally. Merrill, Columbus, Ohio, 1966. 120 pp. Illus. Paper, \$1.75; cloth, \$3.95. Merrill Physical Science Series.

The Chemistry of Cellulose and Wood. N. I. Nikitin. Translated from the Russian edition (Moscow, 1962) by J. Schmorak. Israel Program for Scientific Translations, Jerusalem; Davey, New York, 1966. 703 pp. Illus. \$26.50.

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