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Contents of the first issue

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project's success and the age, education, experience, or length of service with the organization of the project manager. A strong relationship was found, however, to exist between project success and a "Responsibility Index." The Responsibility Index was computed by taking the ratio of the dollar size of the project under study to the dollar size of the project manager's most recent project.

The Matthew effect causes successful project managers to be selected as managers of the most important projects; since these projects command the highest priority within the organization, they usually turn out successfully—and the cycle repeats. Of course, parity must be preserved and the unsuccessful project manager finds himself on a down escalator leading to oblivion.

MARK R. DUSBABEK

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Reference

1. I. M. Rubin and W. Seelig, *IEEE (Inst. Elec. Electron. Eng.) Trans. Eng. Management* 14, No. 3 (1967).

Gliding over Antarctica

I have read Nelson's fascinating account, "Science in Antarctica" (26 Jan., p. 407). One of the pictures shows a lenticular cloud over the mountains of Ross Island. Such clouds are not "unusual formations" over mountains. In fact, they are well known and eagerly sought after by glider pilots as evidence of a "wave" which can carry a glider to considerable heights (depending on the height of the mountain and the strength of the wind). I wonder if exploration of such phenomena using a glider as vehicle has a place in the overall program. If so, I would gladly offer my services and even my own two-seat sailplane. All the Navy has to do is to take me there. Soaring anyone?

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UFO Iconography

I am very fond of Clarke's First and Second Laws, but something seems to be wrong with his Third Law; or perhaps it should be phrased differently ("Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic," Letters, 19 Jan.). Magic can usually be



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distinguished from advanced technology by the fact that it is not imaginative enough. The UFO discussion is a good case in point. All the reports of UFO sightings describe artifacts as visualized by the technology previous to the sighting. In fact, *all* of them look like the interplanetary vehicles in science-fiction illustrations. This would be exactly the case if (and it is a big if) they were "magic"—mental materializations of a sending mind. In the literature of Tibetan travels there are many reports of "sighting" materialized devils. But they do not look like "advanced technology" devils, not even like the devils in western iconography. *All* of them resemble in every detail the pictures of devils in Tibetan books.

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Tempora Mutantur

The flurry of press conferences given recently by scientists in advance of publication on their important work in the biomedical sciences reminds me of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes's statement on 28 June 1911, when he was speaking at Class Day Exercises on the 50th anniversary of the Harvard Class of 1861:

I learned in the regiment and in the class the conclusion, at least, of what I think the best service that we can do for our country and for ourselves: To see so far as one may and to feel the great forces that are behind every detail . . . to hammer out as compact and solid a piece of work as one can, to try to make it first rate, and to leave it unadvertised.

"And to leave it unadvertised"—what unorthodox philosophy in contemporary society! *Tempora mutantur et nos mutantur in illis*. Yes, but are these particular mutations in the spirit and best interest of our science?

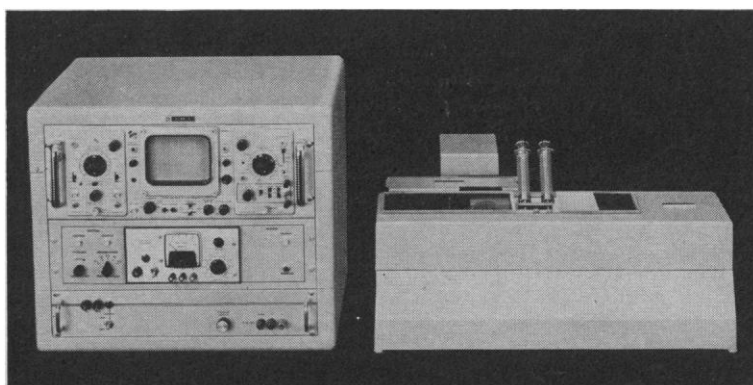
Nobody will for a moment doubt the vital importance to layman and scientist alike of dissemination and discussion of scientific discovery in public news media, but I suggest that we be equally concerned about timing, manner, and style of doing this. As pointed out in these columns some time ago in connection with a related problem (P. Siekevitz, Letters, 21 Oct. 1966): Why the rush?

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