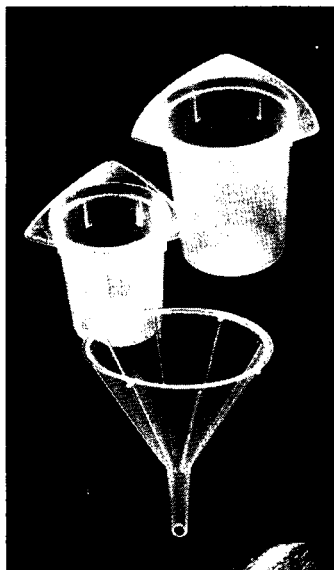


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is generally agreed that the process had probably been in use since the early part of the century; therefore, the phrase "mad as a hatter" must have first appeared shortly after the use of the process became widespread. Before that the English simile for madness had always been "mad as a March hare," a phrase which the *Middle English Dictionary* traces back to at least the 14th century, but gives no mention of adders.

Finally, it is by no means a certainty that Alice's Mad Hatter was an Oxford furniture dealer. The increasingly frequent use of the phrase in the middle of the 19th century may well have been sufficient to have drawn it to Lewis Carroll's attention.

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Polarization

The editorial by F. Karl Willenbrock (18 Sept., p. 1319) points to the decline of U.S. technological preeminence. This retrogression is not limited to steel, automobiles, and electronic devices. It also applies to nuclear power and components, big ship construction, dredging, and other fields.

How is the nation to mobilize its scientific and technological resources, granting that a tripartite effort by industry, government, and academe is needed? What common objective can give them a focus?

In the case of Sputnik, the common chord was the fear of a spacial overview and a threat to our national security. Is there a purely economic or "moral equivalent" of war? Can a long-range, relatively vague probability pump the necessary adrenalin into our social structure to enable us to surmount the rivalries and internal competitiveness that pervade the U.S. psyche?

It will first be necessary to alter the polarization that has crept into our attitudes. Industry now feels beleaguered by government; government feels it is the sole protector of the public; and academe is an orphan seeking "overhead" funds from industry and a few crumbs from the belt-tightening operations of

government. The permit process, that legislated gauntlet to be run in order for any large endeavor to be translated from concept to construction, is a typical example of this polarized attitude. In most instances, the academic sector provides ammunition for both sides.

It is essential that we begin to regard society's needs as matters for a different procedure—not adversary, but selective. A common need must be met by a concerted effort to find the best of many alternatives. None of these will be perfect, nor will all possible questions ever be answered. We must rewrite the National Environmental Policy Act in a positive vein and try to find the best alternative rather than attempting to avoid all evil.

Only in that way will we discover how to meet the challenge of international competition in all arenas.

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Antinuclear Activism

Constance Holden's informative article of 12 February (News and Comment, p. 878) bears the title "Antinuclear movement gains momentum," yet it deals entirely with antinuclear war activism in the United States.

The distinction between the two is hardly trivial. As George Kistiakowsky recently said:

[W]e have problems in trying to redirect the public fear of nuclear plants into fear of nuclear war. When you get emotional about nuclear plants and don't care about nuclear war, it's worrying about a pimple on your cheek when you have a goodly case of cancer.

WILLIAM SPINDEL

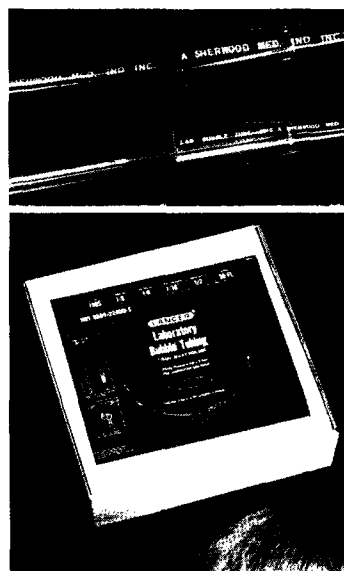
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Correction

An article reporting a congressional hearing on the National Cancer Institute (NCI) (News and Comment, 20 Nov., p. 887) incorrectly states that the institute allowed an unnamed individual to produce a preparation called "Jim's Juice" under what is known as a "compassionate investigational new drug" permit. The NCI, which does not have authority to issue such IND's, was not involved in the matter.

The article also refers to an internal memo written by an NCI researcher about the alleged misuse of an experimental drug called Mitoxantrone. The drug in question was one known as M-AMSA, a new agent against acute leukemia.

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