

films OF THE WEEK

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

COMPUTER FLUID DYNAMICS. 16mm, color, sound, 24 min. Demonstrates the power of today's electronic computers for solving problems that were previously impractical to undertake. The examples cover a wide range of fluid flow problems, such as the water wave produced when a sluice gate is opened. Other examples are shown, with an emphasis on the use of calculations for practical engineering design work as well as increasing knowledge about the basic theories of fluid flow. Audience: professional. Purchase \$109.89 from W. A. Palmer Films, 611 Howard St., San Francisco, Calif. or free loan from AEC field libraries or Audio-Visual Branch, Department of Public Information, U. S. Atomic Energy Comm., Washington, D. C. 20545.

FARMER FOR THE WORLD. 16mm, color, sound, 28½ min. Today's export growth is one of the great historic developments in American agriculture. Shows people in West Germany, Japan, Spain and India who use United States agricultural products. Audience: general. Loan or purchase information from Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

ONE DOOR. 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Visits four families in various settings across the country—each facing a familiar medical problem. A teacher suffers a heart attack; a coal miner can't shake a chronic cough; a woman's eyesight fails; a mother worries about a disturbed child. As each turns to a group practice for help, we see how the group's resources are marshaled to meet their needs. Highlights the problems families face in getting high quality, comprehensive health care and illustrates the advantages of multi-specialty groups. Audience: general. Free loan from Information Office, Community Health Service, 800 N. Quincy St., Arlington, Va. 22203.

A PLAGUE ON YOUR CHILDREN. 16mm, b&w, sound, 72 min. A disturbing, factual investigation into chemical and biological (called CB) warfare. It shows what chemical and biological weapons are, what they can do, and what kind of scientific work is being done to produce or counteract them. Filmed inside Britain's top secret Porton Down Research Center, with supplementary footage obtained through Sweden's Defense Department, it shows the making and testing on animals of a nerve gas and a psychochemical gas; making and testing of a potential germ weapon; the effects on people of some of the diseases that might be used. Audience: high school, college, general. Purchase \$400 or rental \$40 from Peter M. Roebeck and Co., 230 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017.

RADIANT ENERGY AND THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM. 16mm, color, sound, 11 min. Human beings can only see light waves which are a small part of the electromagnetic spectrum. This film gives students an important perspective by showing the various forms and sources of electromagnetic radiation, and how we detect and use them. Illustrates commercial and biochemical applications of high-energy radiation and some of the modern, sensitive instruments used to "see" these invisible rays. Audience: intermediate, junior high. Purchase \$130 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

SOAP BUBBLES AND THE FORCES THAT MOULD THEM. 16mm, color, sound, 24 min. Recreates the 1911 Christmas Lecture given at the Royal Institution by Dr. Boys. Investigates wetting, capillarity, water surface between two glass plates, loop of thread on wire loop, two bubbles of different size connected by tubing and surfaces formed when a wire tetrahedron, a triangular prism, and a cube are dipped into a soap solution. Audience: high school. Purchase \$240 or rental \$10 per 3 days from Modern Learning Aids, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N. Y. 10036.

THE WITCH DOCTOR. 16mm, b&w, sound, 35 min. Examines the social and cultural environment in which witch doctors, both men and women, practice their professions. The witch doctor prospers in underdeveloped countries like Nigeria, where he outnumbers the medical doctor by far. His fees are high, his treatment secret and his methods at times are crude. He is above all confident, for in his opinion, he never fails. Various cases of "cures" by witch doctors are shown. Audience: through college. Purchase \$300 or rental \$30 from Peter M. Roebeck and Co., 230 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017.

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LETTERS

to the editor

No brownie points

The article "Controlling the Flood of Scientific Information," (SN: 6/21, p. 596), describing the difficulty of keeping track of the vast flood of scientific and technical information and pointing out a need for review articles, ends with the sentence: "The difficulty in getting top flight scientists and engineers to do this type of thing is because they don't get any brownie points for it." Why not tap the vast reservoir of retired scientists and engineers for this type of work? There is tremendous competence in this group, they would enjoy the opportunity to be useful, and they don't need any brownie points.

Walter J. Seeley
Dean Emeritus
Duke University
School of Engineering
Durham, N.C.

Private enterprise

SCIENCE NEWS (6/21, p. 594) reports that the Florissant fossil beds are being threatened by a housing development because of nearly 50 years of Government inactivity.

If an appropriate effort had been made by persons interested in preserving this area, it could have been purchased for this purpose long ago. By soliciting contributions from interested individuals the necessary funds could have been collected and this could still be done. It would not seem unreasonable, for example, to expect that at least 10 percent of the five million members of the National Geographic Society would have sufficient interest in

preserving Florissant to contribute two dollars each (one could request 50 cents a year over a four-year period as a suitably small donation) to raise the required one million dollars for the purchase of the 6,000-acre area to be preserved.

Thus, if there is real interest, private action can easily accomplish in a short time what the Government was unwilling to do during the past 48 years. An activity of this type should be supported by voluntary contributions since no legitimate justification exists for supporting it by compulsory taxation. In a free society the only proper method for preserving the Florissant fossils is to create a private organization to purchase and protect this area.

Ernst F. Germann
Austin, Tex.

Thank you for your article on the Florissant beds (SN: 6/21, p. 594). I am sure it will reach a goodly number of people and will help in the struggle to preserve the area as a national monument. The immediate danger of course, will be the aggressive developers. Congress may act favorably, I am pretty sure they will, but in the meantime a lot of damage will be done and further problems raised. Dr. Leopold is doing all she can, but her natural inclination to go "all out" has to be curtailed due to her Government position. Fortunately there are many people in Colorado and the rest of the states who are willing to use their time in working for this project.

I have nothing but favorable comments on your article.

H. D. MacGinitie
Museum of Paleontology
University of California
Berkeley

(The Florissant bill passed the Senate and is awaiting the President's signature. See p. 137. Ed.)

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