

to the editor

Emission tests

The Nov. 27 SCIENCE NEWS contains a reference to General Motors on page 356 which is incorrect.

You referred to a report prepared by the Council on Economic Priorities and its allegation that a statement made in a General Motors' advertisement run in the READER'S DIGEST quoted emission reductions on GM cars as based on prototype cars rather than cars in the field. The reductions in hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide cited in the advertisement were based on field tests of actual cars in use. The California Air Resources Board will bear out this statement. Indeed, the Council on Economic Priorities investigated this statement after they published their paper and found that GM's claims were valid, and even, conservative.

*Waldo E. McNaught
Director, Institutional Operations
Public Relations Staff
General Motors Corp.*

(Mr. McNaught is correct, according to CEP officials who acknowledged their error when we called about his letter. This does not change the fact, however, that 38 percent of GM cars [and even larger percentages of other makes] failed to meet at least one emission standard when tested by the California Air Resources Board. In more recent tests, the New York City Department of Air Resources also reports widespread failure of current models of cars to meet emission standards.—Ed.)

Sea Grant assessment

Recently I read the article "Sea Grant: Four years later" by Louise Purrett (SN: 11/20/71, p. 348). As the host and chairman of the conference Miss Purrett reviewed, I can say with some authority that she did an outstanding job. She was exceptionally perspective in her assessment of the political climate and mood of the universities vis-a-vis the Sea Grant Program.

*Robert A. Ragotzkie
Coordinator, University of Wisconsin
Sea Grant Program*

books OF THE WEEK

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AERIAL PHOTO-ECOLOGY—John A. Howard—Am. Elsevier Pub. Co., 1971, 325 p., plates (partly color), diagrams, \$18. Discusses the factors influencing the various elements of aerial photography, and the essential aspects of photogrammetry; describes in detail the science and technique of basic and integrated interpretation. Useful appendixes, 35-page bibliography and detailed index.

THE COMING OF THE GOLDEN AGE: A View of the End of Progress—Gunther S. Stent—Natural Hist. Press, 1971, 146 p., illus., paper, \$2.50. Reprint (1969) of thoughtful essay on the rise and fall of molecular genetics, and the rise and fall of Faustian man.

EXPLORING THE OCEAN—Daniel Behrman—Unesco (UNIPUB, N.Y.), 1971, 89 p., photographs, paper, \$1. Describes in nontechnical language the oceanographic projects of Unesco involving more than 65 nations in research which encircles the earth.

A GOOD LIFE FOR MORE PEOPLE: The Yearbook of Agriculture 1971—Jack Hayes, Ed.—USDA (GPO), 1971, 391 p., photographs, drawings, \$3.50. Presents an optimistic view of how rural America, agricultural and technology can deal with the increase in U.S. population.

HEREDITY IN HUMANS—Amram Scheinfeld—Lippincott, 1972, 303 p., photograph, illus. by author, \$6.95. A popular, concise presentation of what is known about human inheritance, why and how individuals develop special characteristics; explains the part chromosomes play, dominance and recessiveness, and many other genetic theories.

INNOVATIONS: Scientific, Technological and Social—Dennis Gabor—Oxford Univ. Press, 1971, 113 p., \$4.95; paper, \$1.95. Nobelist summarizes and evaluates a hundred technological and biological inventions that can be expected within the next 50 years, and cites 37 social innovations or reforms which would be needed as defenses against instability.

LATTICE THEORY: First Concepts and Distributive Lattices—George Grätzer—Freeman, 1971, 212 p., diagrams, \$9. Provides a detailed treatment of the theory of distributive lattices presented together with more than 500 exercises which form an integral part of the book.

LET HISTORY JUDGE: The Origins and Consequences of Stalinism—Roy A. Medvedev, transl. from Russian by Colleen Taylor; David Joravsky and Georges Haupt, Eds.—Knopf, 1972, 618 p., \$12.50. A detailed and documented historical and sociological analysis of conditions in Soviet Russia under Stalin, both scholarly and rich in human interest.

LIFE: Its Nature, Origins and Distribution—Josephine Marquand, foreword by N. W. Pirie—Norton, 1971, 96 p., photographs, diagrams, paper, \$1.65. Outlines major theories and discoveries in their historical context, and assesses the state of present-day research.

MEMBRANE PROCESSES IN INDUSTRY AND BIOMEDICINE: Proceedings of 1970 Symposium—Milan Bier, Ed.—Plenum Press, 1971, 313 p., photographs, diagrams, tables, \$14.50. Reference work, focuses on some of the most recent advances in the field, discusses progress in the areas of dialysis, the vital process of blood purification in artificial kidneys, oxygenation of blood, reverse osmosis and its role in abating water pollution, and ultrafiltration.

NOISE ABATEMENT—C. Duerden—Philosophical Lib., 1971, 280 p., photographs, diagrams, \$25. A thorough account of noise detection and control presented by a British public health inspector, covers the field from explanation of the theory and properties of sound to statutory regulations.

PATIENT EARTH—John Harte and Robert H. Socolow—Holt, 1972, 364 p., photographs, diagrams, maps, \$7.95. The book addresses itself to the fact that our planet shows symptoms of disease in air, water, cities and cells; two essays describe historical experiences where the diseases proved fatal to land and civilization, but the main body of the book is devoted to case studies of constructive projects by "geophysicians" who try to diagnose and heal the ailing environment.

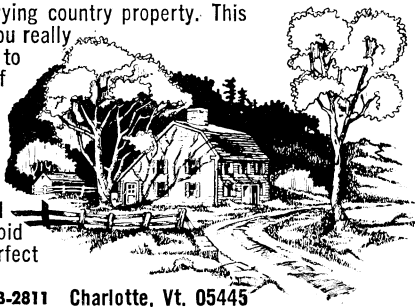
PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY IN THE UNITED STATES—Henry Clepper—Johns Hopkins Press, 1971, 337 p., \$10. An historical treatment of forest preservation efforts, and an account of woodland management that relates forestry to the general natural resources environment, written by an experienced forester who knew the kinds of men who made forestry history.

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY: An Introduction—Joel Aronoff and others, Consultants—CRM Bks., 1971, 707 p., color plates, photographs, drawings, diagrams, \$12.95. Abundantly illustrated presentation attempts to span the whole field of psychology in an effort to represent the abundance of opinions that have thus far defied a clear consensus on a definitive conception of psychology.

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