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COVER: Baboons at the world's largest baboon colony suffer a high rate of apparently "contagious" cancer. The colony is in the U.S.S.R. near the Black Sea resort of Pitsunda where data on leukemia and related diseases were presented at a recent international symposium. See p. 364. (Photo: Science Service)

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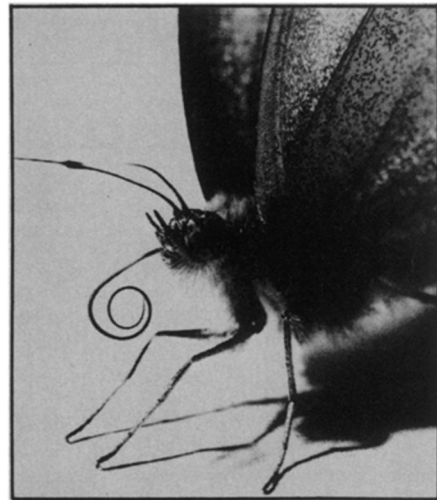
SCIENCE ON TV

SCIENCE NEWS prints the latest written word of scientific developments and noteworthy news. We've set this space aside to inform our readers of programs of scientific interest that are scheduled on television. Check your local listings for exact times.

• **December 2 (PBS) Connections** — "Yesterday, Tomorrow and You" is the last segment of the "Connections" series, a personal investigation of the shaping of the modern world. "If we can figure out how the world got the way it is," says the show's creator and narrator, James Burke, "we may be able to exert some influence over the way it will be in the future." This segment examines the common factors causing technological change at different times and places in an effort to assess where we go from here. It also looks at technology's influence on our understanding and control of our destinies.

• **December 4 (PBS) — NOVA** — "The Bridge that Spanned the World" is the Iron Bridge across the River Severn in Telford, England. Two centuries old this year, it is an astonishing achievement for its time and symbol of the Industrial Revolution. The Iron Bridge area has been called "The Cradle of the Industrial Revolution," being the area where Abraham Darby developed a method of producing iron by burning coke, rather than using charcoal. The ready accessibility of all the vital elements for iron production plus a large labor force and the availability of river barges to move materials and products helped Darby improve processing methods. This, in turn, led to the development of modern industry and created sweeping changes in Britain and the rest of the world. The story is particularly timely: The use of coke was the result of an 18th century "energy crisis" brought about by deforestation. Along with the past, the present and future of the iron and steel industries will be explored.

• **December 11 (PBS) — NOVA** — "Termites and Telescopes" is the second in a series of BBC lectures dedicated to the memory of Jacob Bronowski. Given by Philip Morrison, Institute Professor and



J. Urban, Stock Boston/NOVA

Nature provides the model for many of the design concepts we think of as human inventions. Insect flight utilizes complex aerodynamic principles, for example, and what is seen by some as the criterion of true civilization — the construction of the true arch — has been mastered by certain species of termites.

professor of physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it explores the rise of civilization and the differences between animals, which adapt to their environment, and humans, who shape theirs. Issues explored are those of whether there are limits to the evolutionary process of natural selection and what responsibilities humans assume as they shape their environments.

• **December 18 (PBS) — NOVA** — "Blindness: Five Points of View" tells the stories of five patients with vision problems and explores with them and their doctors the difficulty of coping with conditions that cannot be prevented and sometimes cannot even be treated. It is still unknown what causes most serious eye diseases, and although some can be treated through medicine or surgery, once vision is lost, it is rarely restored. The problem promises to grow as advances in modern medicine prolong life, since the major causes of blindness today are closely linked with aging. Sight-saving surgical techniques developed in the past few years are shown, as is the interaction between doctor and patient — both positive and negative.

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