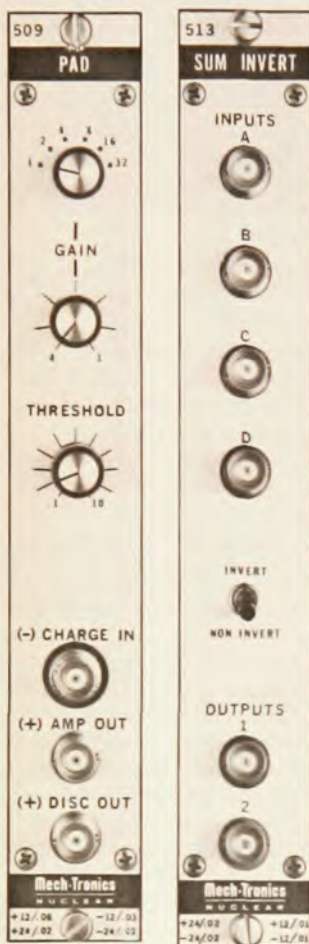


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continued from page 15

first point.

If one meets these problems by increasing the collector area, one is faced with a very large excess energy capacity most of the year. In our more sophisticated system model we compromise on collector size, so that the summer excess power can produce just enough storable chemical fuel for supplemental winter use. We have explored novel chemical fuels such as granular aluminum, burning it in winter and re-electrolyzing the collected aluminum-oxide ash back into aluminum the following summer. In fact there are quite a few options that need to be explored in the area of recyclable storable chemical reserve fuels.

We have proposed construction of a test loop of sufficient size to answer some of the engineering and economic questions raised by Gast and hope to see this done in the next year.

Obviously our proposal for solar power farms will benefit from more study. Already the input from many people has contributed to maturing of the concept. We are encouraged to think that either solar power will soon become a reality or laid aside as one of the few dreams of mankind that will forever remain a dream.

ADEN B. MEINEL
MARJORIE P. MEINEL
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

Union threat

Physicists have always shrunk in horror from the idea of becoming "union labor" with its obvious limitations on a profession, such as equal pay for unequal ability. What is less often discussed is that the union's bargaining power does not begin to be felt in a market where plenty of nonunion labor is available. The British and American Medical Associations have for many years maintained an active interest in limiting their own total intake of qualified practitioners and in enforcing "union" membership without damage to their image of being dedicated to the interest of Mankind. In America they have also achieved this without enforcing a uniform pay scale. They continue to restrict their numbers despite a national shortage of doctors.

Although I am still personally opposed to this idea, I am wondering when we physicists and engineers will wake up to the fact that this kind of action is necessary for our survival. Without control over our own numbers we have become overpopulated, and now have the public image of being unnecessary. I was provoked into writing by a letter that appeared in last year's June issue of the

(British) *Physics Bulletin*, reproduced below:

"We would like to bring to the notice of readers a situation which has arisen in a Northeastern firm, C. A. Parsons, employing many graduates in both the sciences and engineering. The company has an agreement with Draughtsmen and Allied Technicians Union in which the majority of graduate staff will be compelled to join DATA as a condition of employment. If they refuse, their employment will be terminated. This agreement was reached contrary to the wishes of the staff mentioned, without consultation as to level of eligibility and was in fact as a 'fait accompli'.

"This action will take effect before the Industrial Relations Bill becomes law, and thus the staff concerned have no protection. Surely it is time the scientific institutes did something to protect the rights of their members."

D. Brown, D. Hall, A. Nag, H. Newell, M. Sheehan and D. Tonks
Grubb Parsons
Newcastle-upon-Tyne

I wonder if this sort of situation could arise in this country. My only experience of union interference so far has been in the area of "demarcation disputes." Actually to call them "disputes" is not correct, as the unprotected physicist has no say in the matter. For example a colleague of mine in Ohio has a PhD and immense experience in the use of vacuum equipment. He is not now permitted to assemble, dismantle or clean any of the vacuum equipment assigned to his research projects. The only labor available to him for this purpose is in the nature of a fitter. Because my colleague has no strong union to support him he is the automatic loser in any such disputes. I have had similar experiences. It seems that such intrusions into our profession can only be prevented by an organization with influence equal to that of the A.M.A.

CEDRIC G. ROGERS
Marlborough, Mass.

Corrections

February, page 53—Review caption mistakenly identified the publisher of *Physical Processes in Geology*. The correct name is Freeman-Cooper, not Freeman.

March, page 101—Column 3, third line from bottom read: "In 1965, 15% of the graduates who chose employment found jobs in industry." The figure should have been 51%. □