

account; it was worth carrying out if only for the pleasure it affords the rest of us to see so many FRSSs being so self-indulgently sophomoric.

This is not a book to be read from cover to cover. One sniffs a little here, savors a bit there, samples a dab of this and a morsel of that, puts the volume in the pantry and comes back later for more. My prize for the most scientific contribution goes to E. Lester Smith, who reduces the totality of breads, scones, Yorkshire puddings, omelettes, pancakes and sponges to points in a five-dimensional space whose axes give the proportions of flour, fat, egg, liquid and sugar. This space, he sadly informs us, has been thoroughly explored. His second contribution, however—a recipe for Plas-molysed Banana—sounds revolting, though it doesn't torment you with obsessive visions of horror as does (forgive me, dear reader) the "fish and marmalade" of John Robert Philip.

The editors have had the wisdom to include contributions from members of the society no longer among us, perhaps the finest of which is the lengthy contribution of Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, on the excellent qualities of coffee. "The mental powers are awakened and rendered uncommonly active," he remarks, thereby revealing himself to be the patron saint of contemporary physicists. Rumford instructs us in the art of making coffee "in the highest perfection," he scorns tea ("that miserable and unwholesome wash") and he urges that coffee "be made to supply the place of those pernicious drains of spiritous liquors which do so much harm," coffee being "a much more refreshing and exhilarating draught" that "would no doubt be incomparably more nourishing." The minions of Mr. Bennett might carry Count Rumford with them as they set off into the Colombian jungles to persuade the farmers to switch crops.

I also recommend Rudolph Peierls's sociological analysis of why all publicly available English food used to be so absolutely horrid. His essay is adorned by a remarkably realistic cartoon of a nattily attired young Rudi contemplating with thinly disguised revulsion a plate of sausages, peas and chips along with a tray carrying salt, pepper and ketchup. And I certainly intend to try Joanna Hookway's Real Fruit Ice Cream, the instructions for the proper solidification of which are *in toto* "Put in the freezer and forget it."

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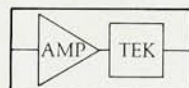
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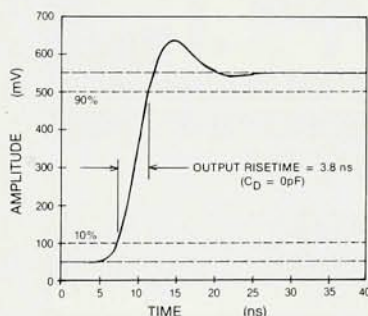
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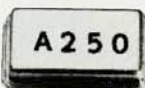


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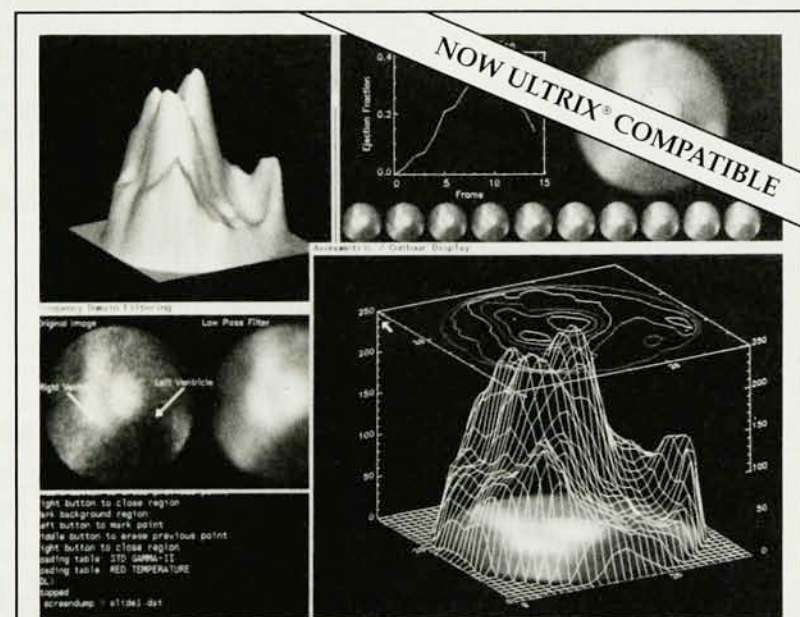
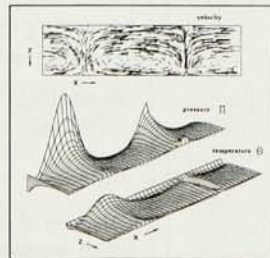


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