

Sir Hermann Bondi, a Member of our Editorial Board and Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, wrote about "Ocean Sensing" and based it on his talk to the Hydrographic Society. Bondi reviewed optical and microwave sensors, and pointed out that the topography of the seas could now be accurately measured by satellite, thus giving the slope of the surface generated by Coriolis forces.

Dr Larkin Kerwin, another member of the Editorial Board and President of the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa, pleaded in his brief article for a „Disaster Relief Brigade“for natural and man-made disasters. After giving some examples where ad hoc aid had come to the victims from military forces, Kerwin suggested that if one percent of the military resources of a nation were assigned to disaster relief, the cost would be negligible. From national relief operations these brigades could move forward to international help, a subject for which I had pleaded in two previous Editorials, in 1977 and 1984. Regrettably, these ideas have never been taken up and each new disaster leads again to much loss of life which could have been avoided by properly trained and equipped Disaster Relief Brigades. [See Title 81]

So far this excellent issue had contained seven short contributions and these were followed by another seven, major articles. The first dealt with "Biocompatibility: Performance in the Surgical Reconstruction of Man" by Professor D.F. Williams of the Institute of Bioengineering of the University of Liverpool. The subject is in the author's definition "interdisciplinary par excellence".

From the medical research laboratory to an article about a laboratory of nature, the "Makhtesh Ramon" in Israel's Negev Desert where for the last 40 years sporadic and unrelated research field work had been carried out. Now an interdisciplinary master plan had been worked out by Professor Emanuel Mazor of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. The report is illustrated by 21 excellent photographs.

"The Migration of Physical Scientists to Molecular Biology and its Impact" is the title of Dr S.B. Dev's contribution, coming from the Department of Applied Biological Sciences of MIT, Cambridge Ma. For this research, the author interviewed Linus Pauling, Salvador Luria, Seymour Benzer, Howard Berg, John Hopfield, Edward Purcell, Walter Gilbert and Ivar Giaever. He concluded that the great outstanding problems of molecular biology, for example the origin of life, are of an interdisciplinary physical and chemical, and not of a purely biological, nature.