

1969

Two NSTA Publications Called "Popular Sources"

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the phlogiston theory? Which were important in discarding the phlogiston theory? From a list of brief statements about important experiments, select the experiment which you think made the most significant contribution to the kinetic-molecular theory of matter. Then, the next numbered question, select the experiment which made the next most significant contribution. In actual scoring we allowed credit in all questions for any one of three which we thought were the most significant for either question.

It might be added that this type of question has one advantage for students which is an inescapable difficulty with essay questions. It may help the student to recall things which

he may know but which may not come to mind when he is facing a test. He still has to decide whether it is to be used in marking the answer. Let there be no impression from these comments that we do not believe in essay questions. We use them when we can and believe there is no better learning experience than for one to express his ideas both in written and oral language.

Objective tests also have their distinct advantages and they are practically indispensable for handling large groups of students. The final statement is that our experience with the ten-space answer sheet leads us to believe that it is the most useful device we have found for objective testing.

Two NSTA Publications Called 'Popular Sources'

An opinion survey recently released named *Science and Children* and *The Science Teacher*, two publications of NSTA, as the most popular sources of information with science teachers on availability of materials from industry.

The survey, sponsored by a grant from the Jim and Ada Irving Foundation of Stoughton, Wisconsin, and released by the Science Materials Research Committee, sampled the opinions of some 2,000 science teachers instructing at the kindergarten to grade twelve levels. The teachers were queried on the extent and sources of business and industry's contribution to classrooms and labs in free and low cost materials.

Teachers named professional journals and publications as the most valuable source of information on com-

mercial materials available to them. The two NSTA publications were mentioned most frequently by those teachers naming their sources specifically.

The Science Materials Research Committee—nine nationally known science educators—discovered many teachers feel industry's aid to education in the realm of low cost materials is inadequate and often overcommercialized.

Eight annual issues of *Science and Children* are available to individuals at \$5 per year, and to libraries and institutes at \$4. Individual subscriptions to *The Science Teacher* entitles the subscriber to nine issues of the publication for \$10, while the library and institutional rate is \$8.

The fifty-two-page report is available for \$1 from the Jim and Ada Irving Foundation, RFD 2, Stoughton, Wisconsin.