

Critical Theory

05 — Interspecies Media

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October 15, 2025

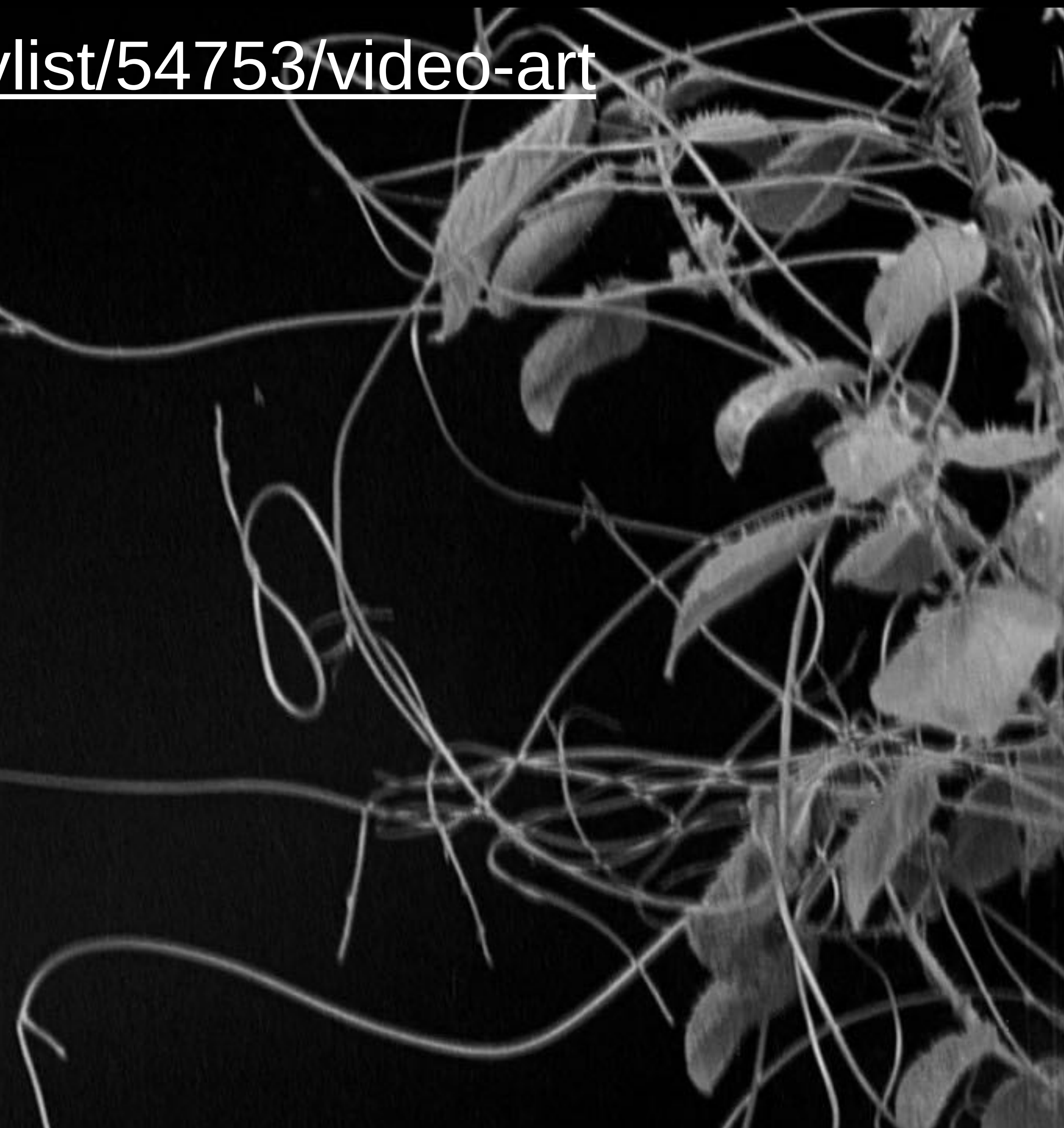
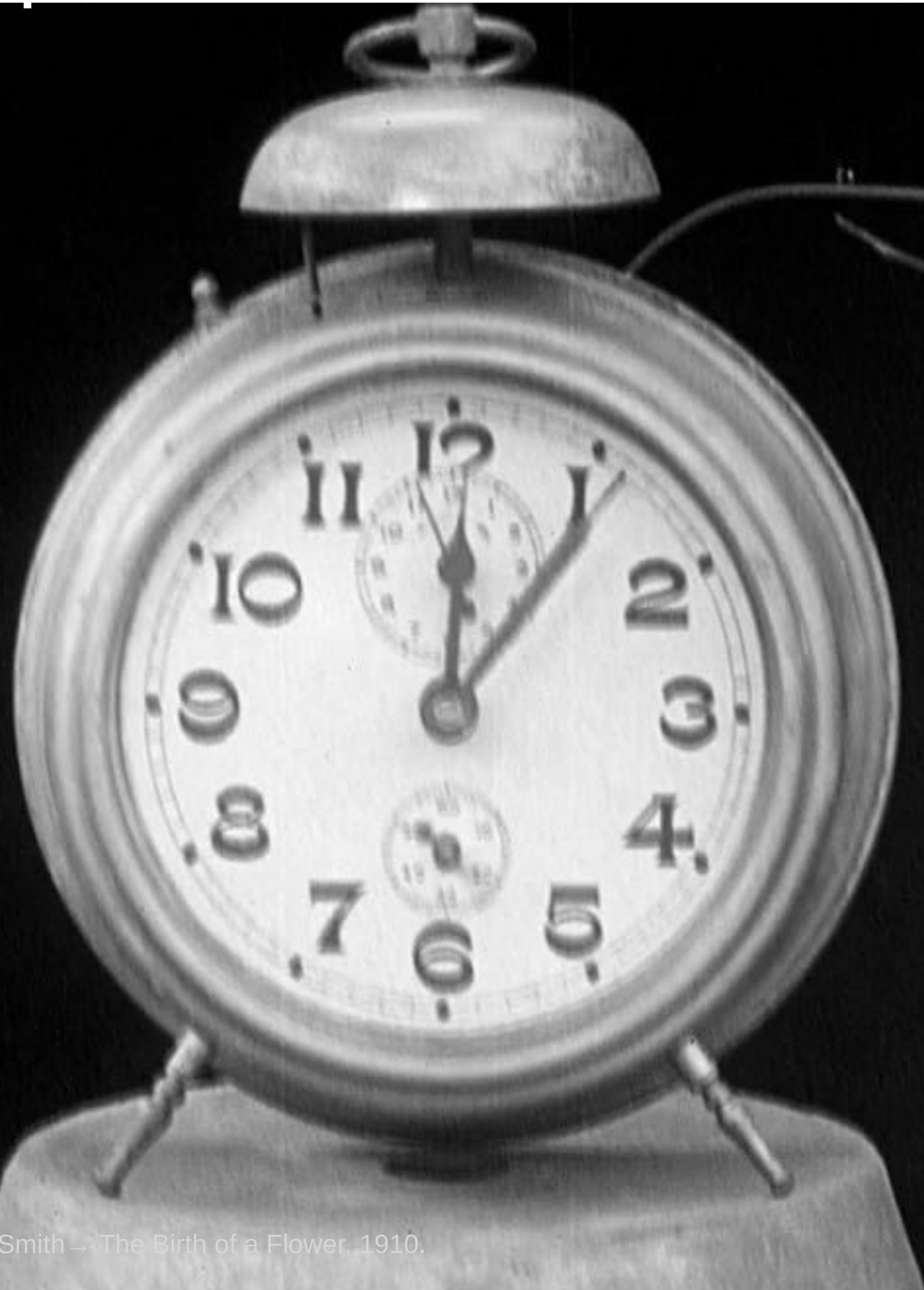
Can media be used to create relationships
with non-human species?



01 — Animist Cinema



<https://www.nowness.com/playlist/54753/video-art>



Vierundzwanzig Stunden, ein Tag im Leben des Menschen, ist die Sekunde im Leben der Blumen.

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Twenty-four hours, a day in the life of man, is a second in the life of flowers.

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/blumenwunder>



Technologies, such as film, whose ultimate, paradoxical power has been, from its beginning, the ability to re-enchant a disenchanted world, enhance our perceptual possibilities and suggest alternative, counter-hegemonic ways of thinking about the world.



Mimosa Pudica



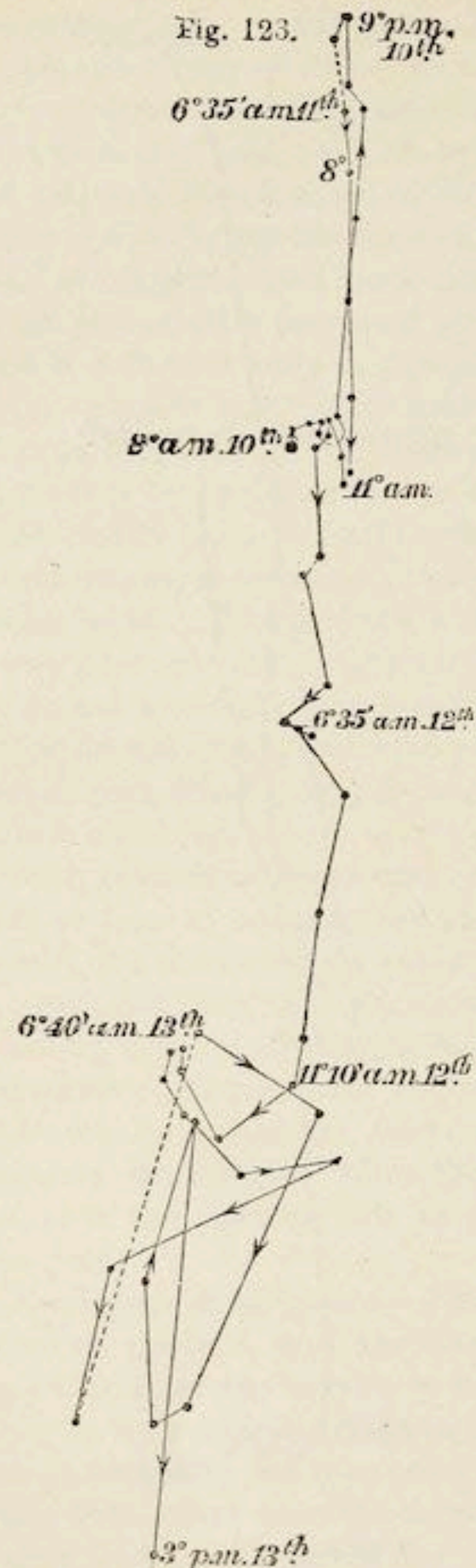
Mimosa Pudica + Dionaea Muscipula

Fig. 122.



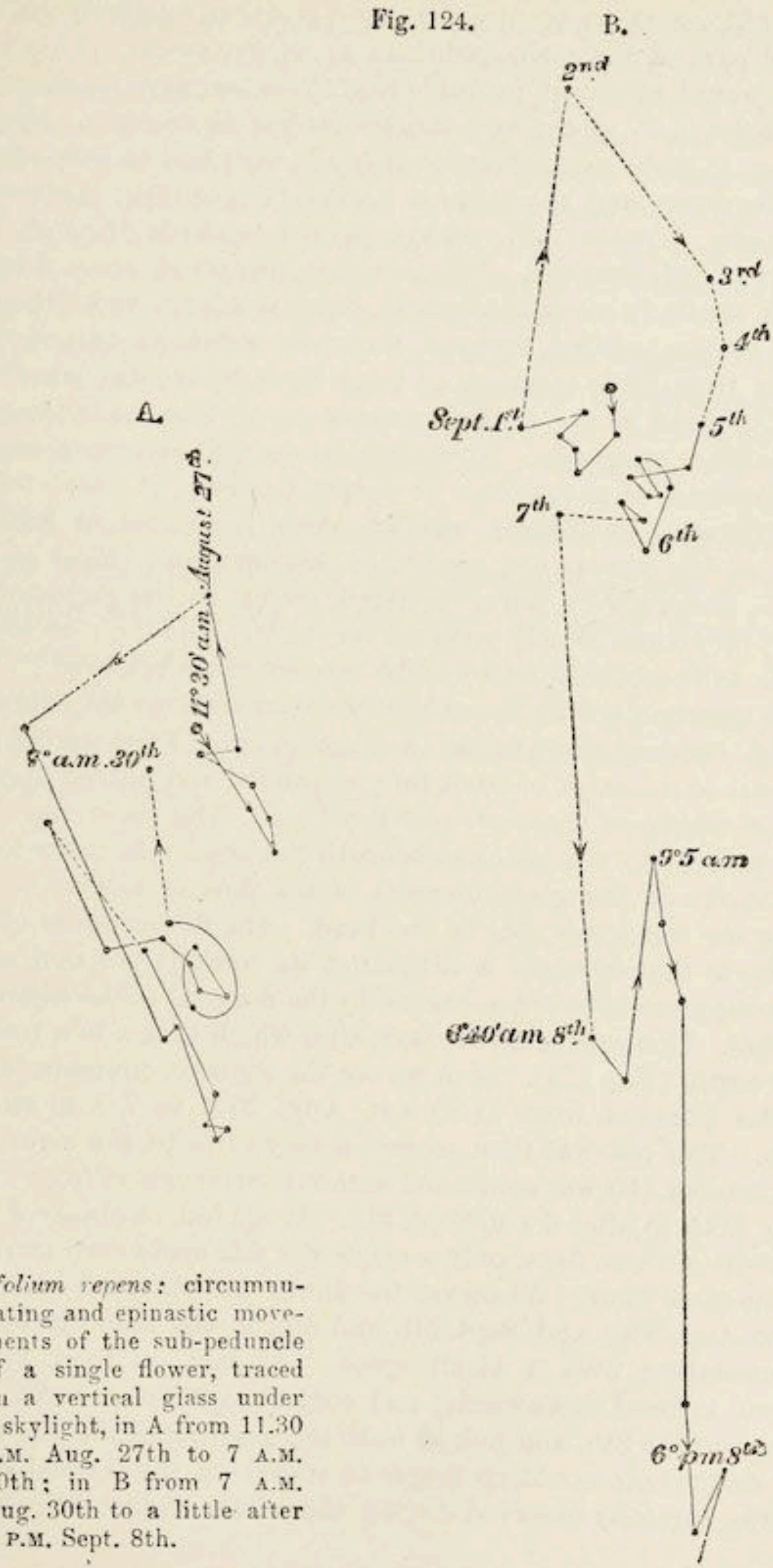
Ampelopsis tricuspidata: hyponastic movement of hooked tip of leading shoot, traced from 8.10 A.M. July 13th to 8 A.M. 15th. Apex of shoot 5½ inches from the vertical glass. Plant illuminated through a skylight. Temp. 17½°-19° C. Diagram reduced to one-third of original scale.

Fig. 123.



Smithia Pfundii: hyponastic movement of the curved summit of a stem, whilst straightening itself, traced from 9 A.M. July 10th to 3 P.M. 13th. Apex 9½ inches from the vertical glass. Diagram reduced to one-fifth of original scale. Plant illuminated through skylight; temp. 17½°-19° C.

Fig. 124.



Trifolium repens: circumnating and epinastic movements of the sub-peduncle of a single flower, traced on a vertical glass under a skylight, in A from 11.30 A.M. Aug. 27th to 7 A.M. Aug. 30th; in B from 7 A.M. Aug. 30th to a little after 6 P.M. Sept. 8th.

leaves of plants are also subject to the stimulus of gravity. Do they too exhibit daily movements similar to those of the Praying Palm?

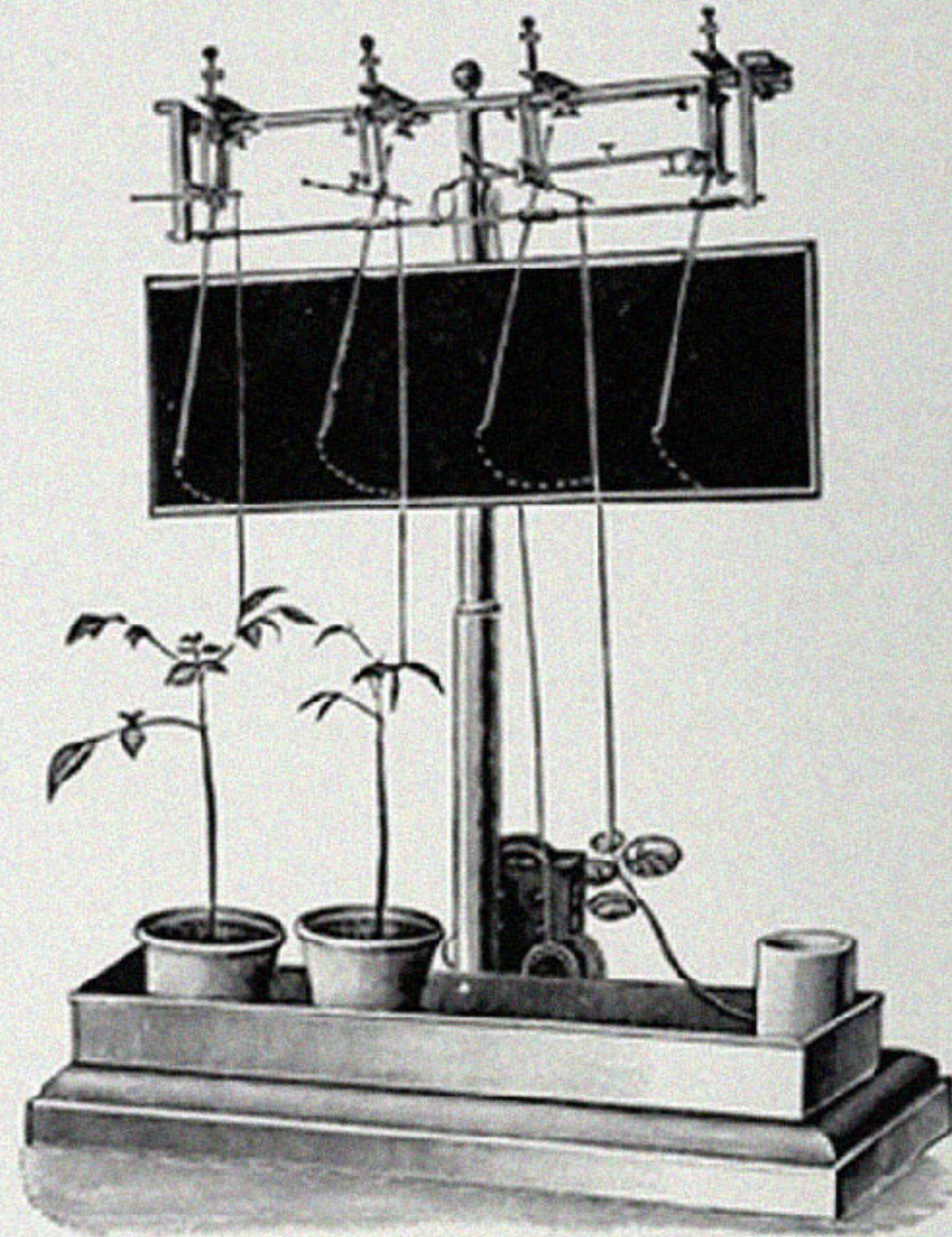


FIG. 34. The Leaf-Recorder.

THE AUTOMATIC RECORDER

This investigation was carried out with the help of an Automatic Recorder specially constructed for the purpose. The apparatus has four recording levers: the first three

record movements of leaves (or of shoots horizontally laid) of different plants; the fourth lever records the variation of the temperature by means of a metallic thermometer

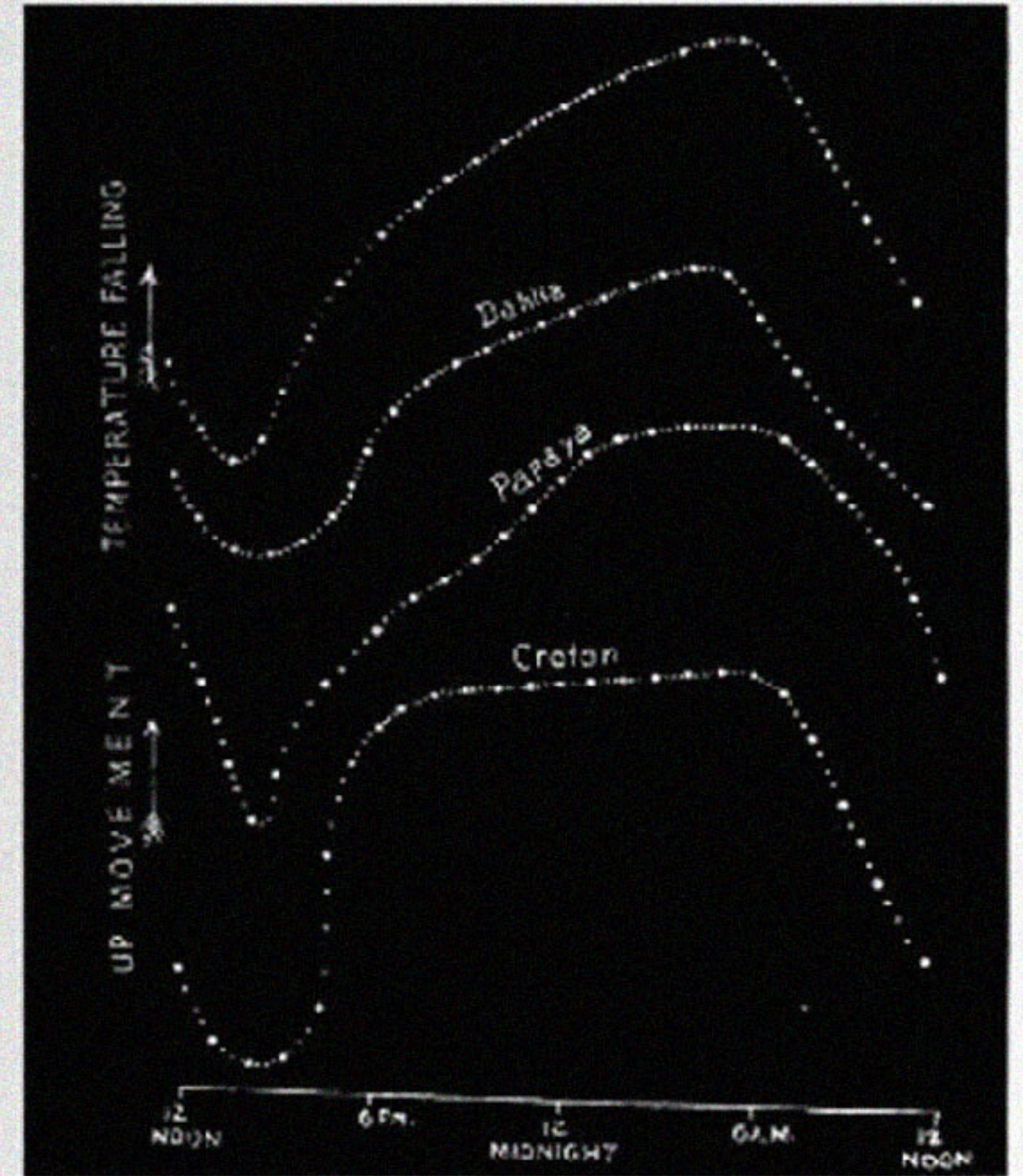
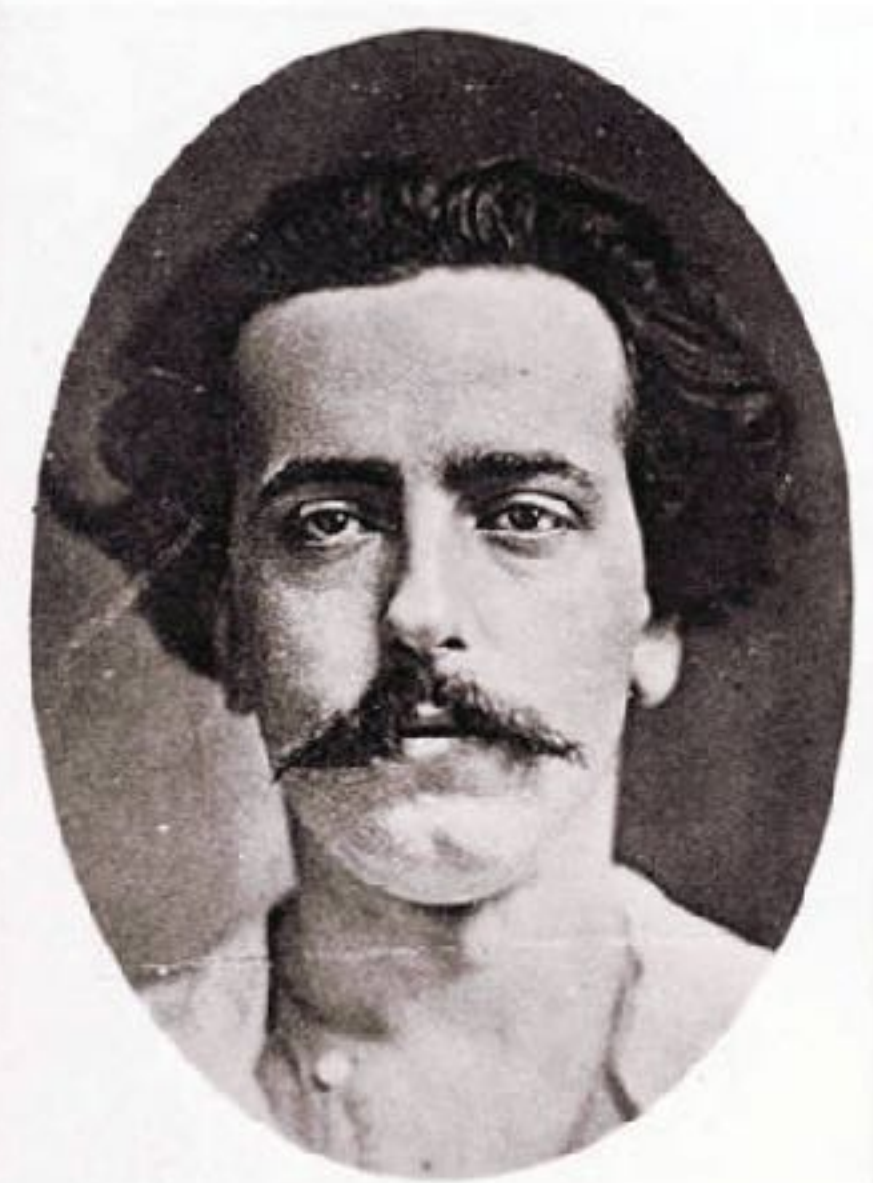


FIG. 35. The Autographs of Dahlia, Papaya and Croton.

(fig. 34). The smoked glass plate is made to oscillate to and fro by clockwork at intervals, say, of fifteen minutes. Four records are thus made at the same time, the uppermost



1



3



6



4



2

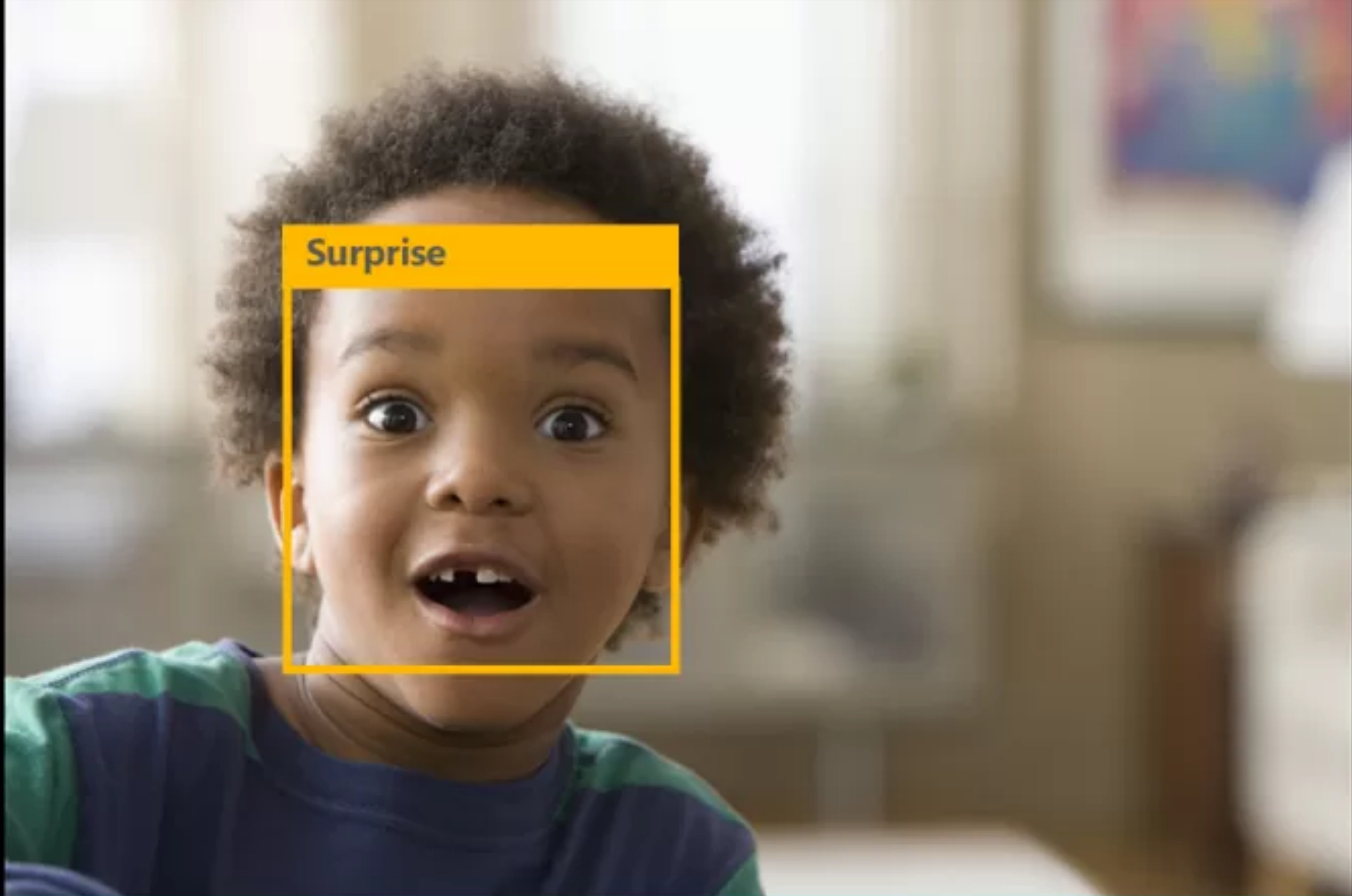


5



7

Helix



Surprise



Neutral:



Happiness:



Surprise:



Sadness:



Anger:



Disgust:



Fear:



Contempt:

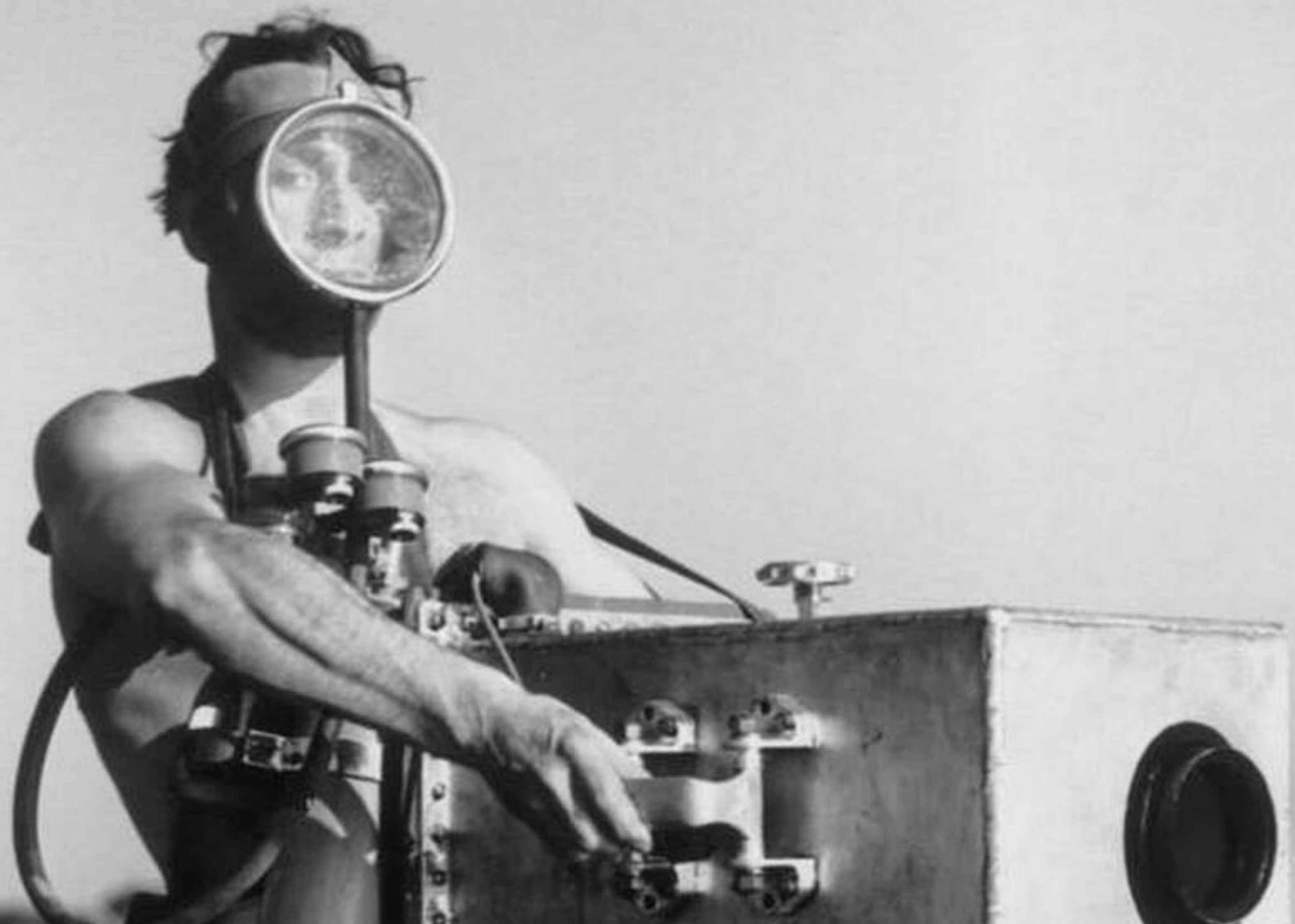


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Beyond its documentary use, the images produced according to the graphic method—quickly backed by film—have a heuristic power, anticipating novel ideas through and thanks to images.

Among these, what we could call the plants' "becoming subject" is perhaps the most striking, in particular when it comes to film. As a matter of course, these images negotiate a transition from the statute of object to that of subject—what is more, an *intentional* subject.

A surprising animism is being reborn. We know now, because we have seen them, that we are surrounded by inhuman existences ... The cinematographer extends the range of our senses, making perceptible to our sight and to our hearing individuals that we considered invisible and inaudible.



The modern naturalist can no longer narrowly limit himself to the study of plants or animals, because life, in its many aspects, solves the problem in a practical way, however varied it may be, and refutes our artificial separations and our classifications between plants, animals and men.



“People tend to think that animism is a narcissistic, anthropomorphic, anthropocentric fantasy of primitive people, children, and madmen,” says Viveiros de Castro, “when actually animism is exactly the opposite.

If you say that everything is human, then you also must say that humans aren't special, because everything is like us.”

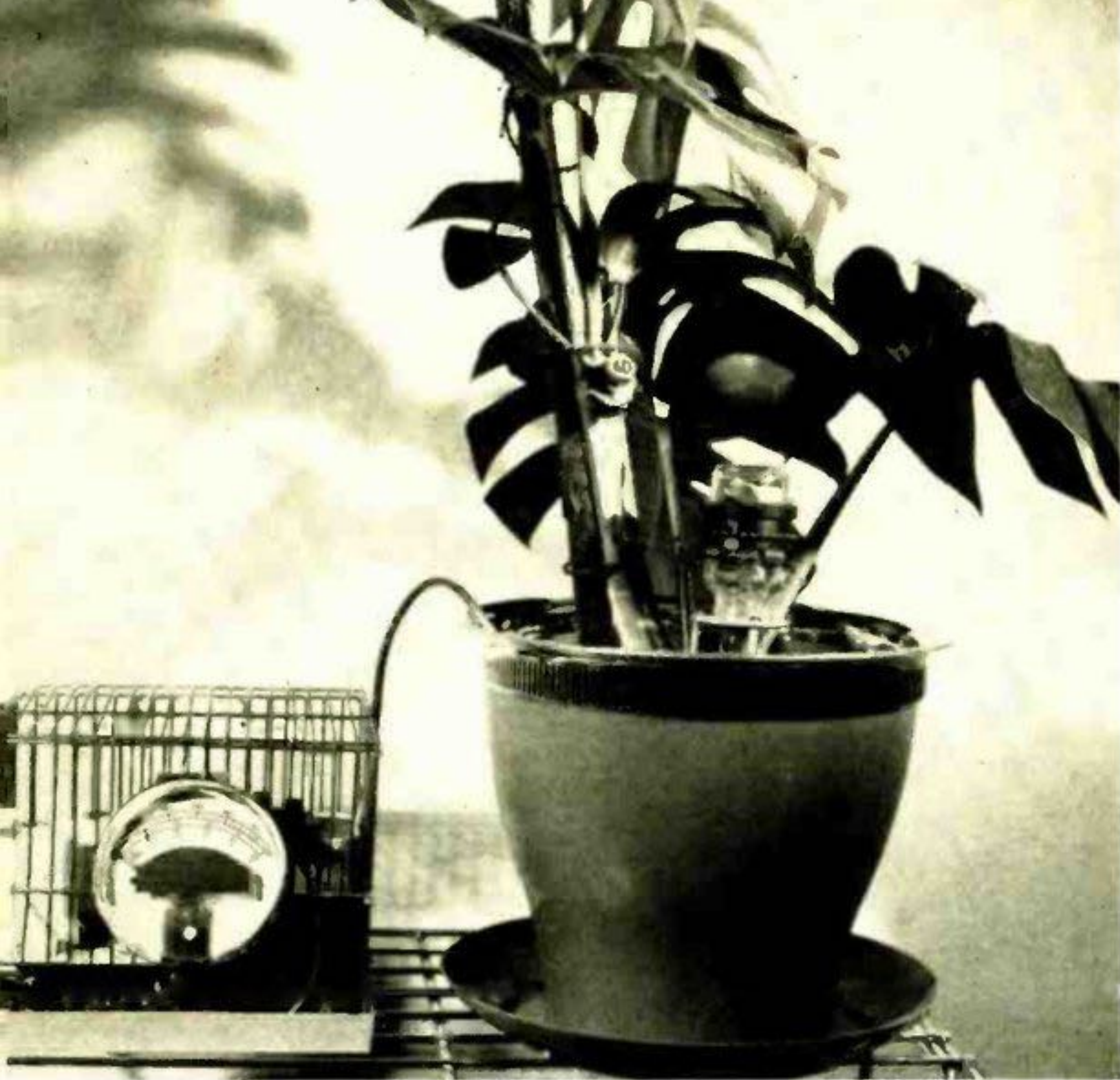


Fig. 8. Indoor arrangement for testing Backster Effect. The d.c. amplifier is at left, connected by shielded line to the leaf and set-up potentiometer. Nutrient feeder is in the pot.

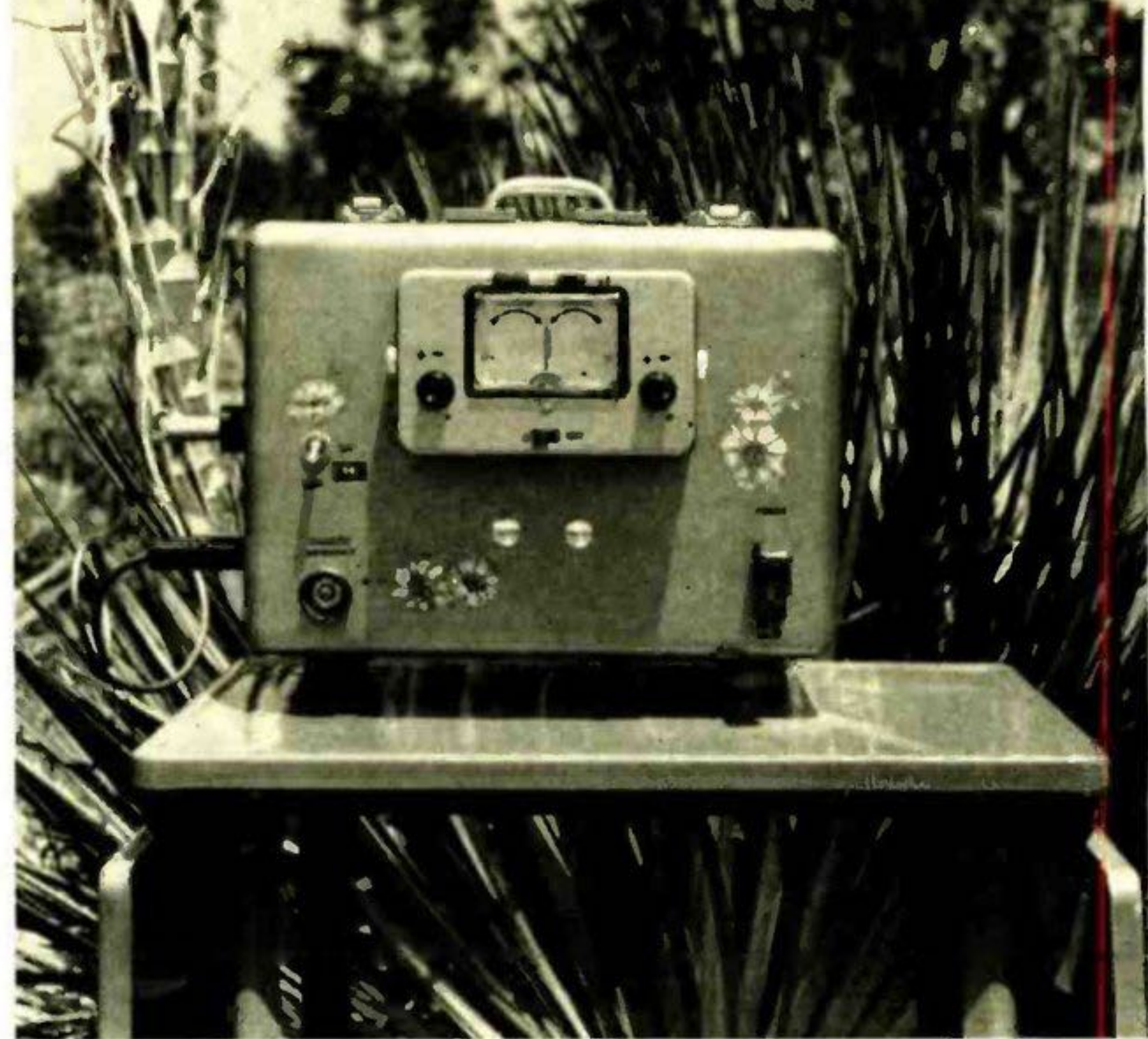


Fig. 11. The d.c. galvanometer and packaged electronics devised for testing the emotion-like response of yucca plants outdoors. The plant shown in the lead photo indicates size.

02 — Songs for Plants



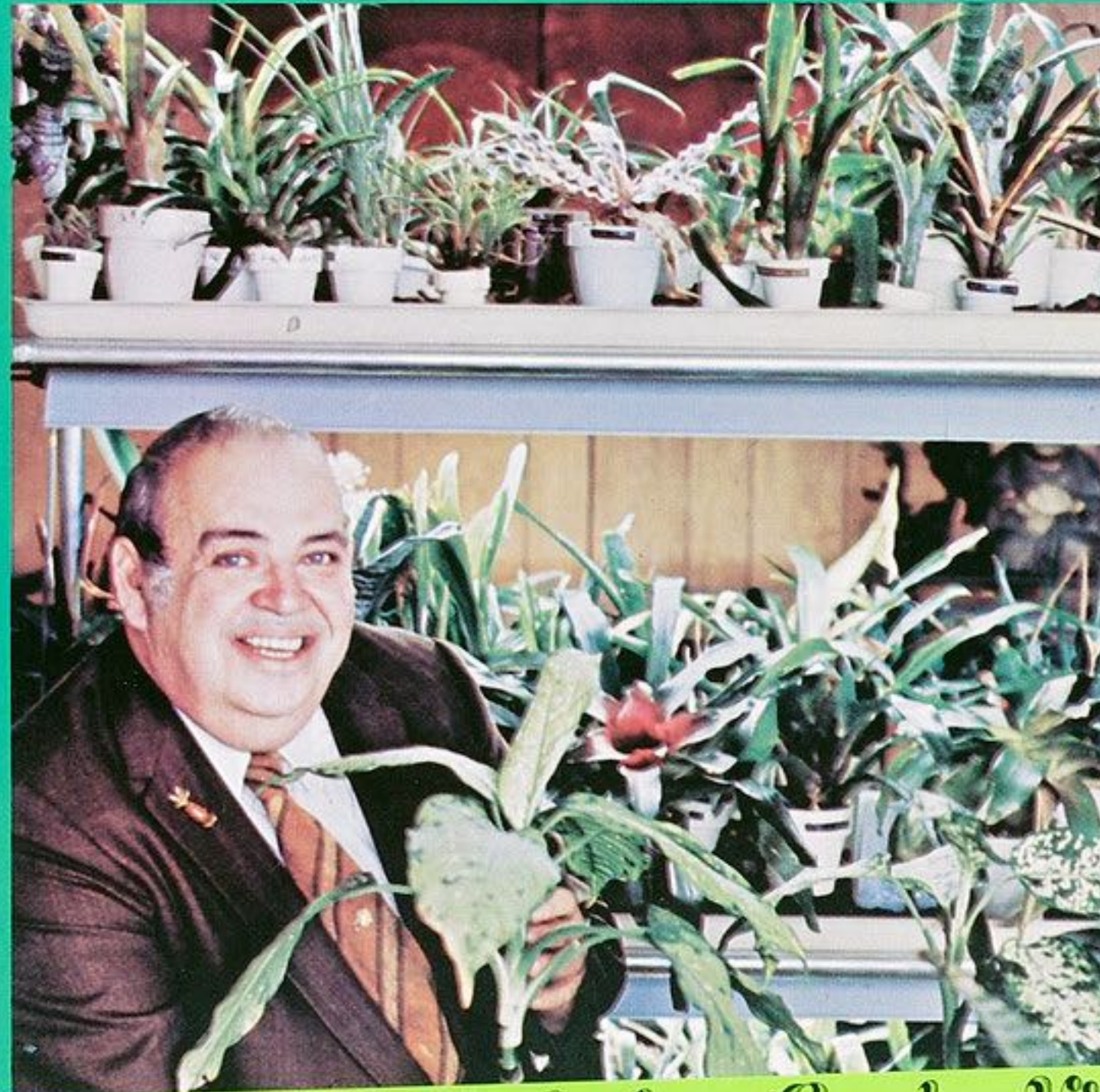
BRITISH
PATHÉ



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtjVwpxfcP4>

MUSIC TO GROW PLANTS

PRESENTED BY DR. GEORGE MILSTEIN



Your Complete Home Indoor Garden Kit Free Of Charge

1 A PACKET OF SEEDS



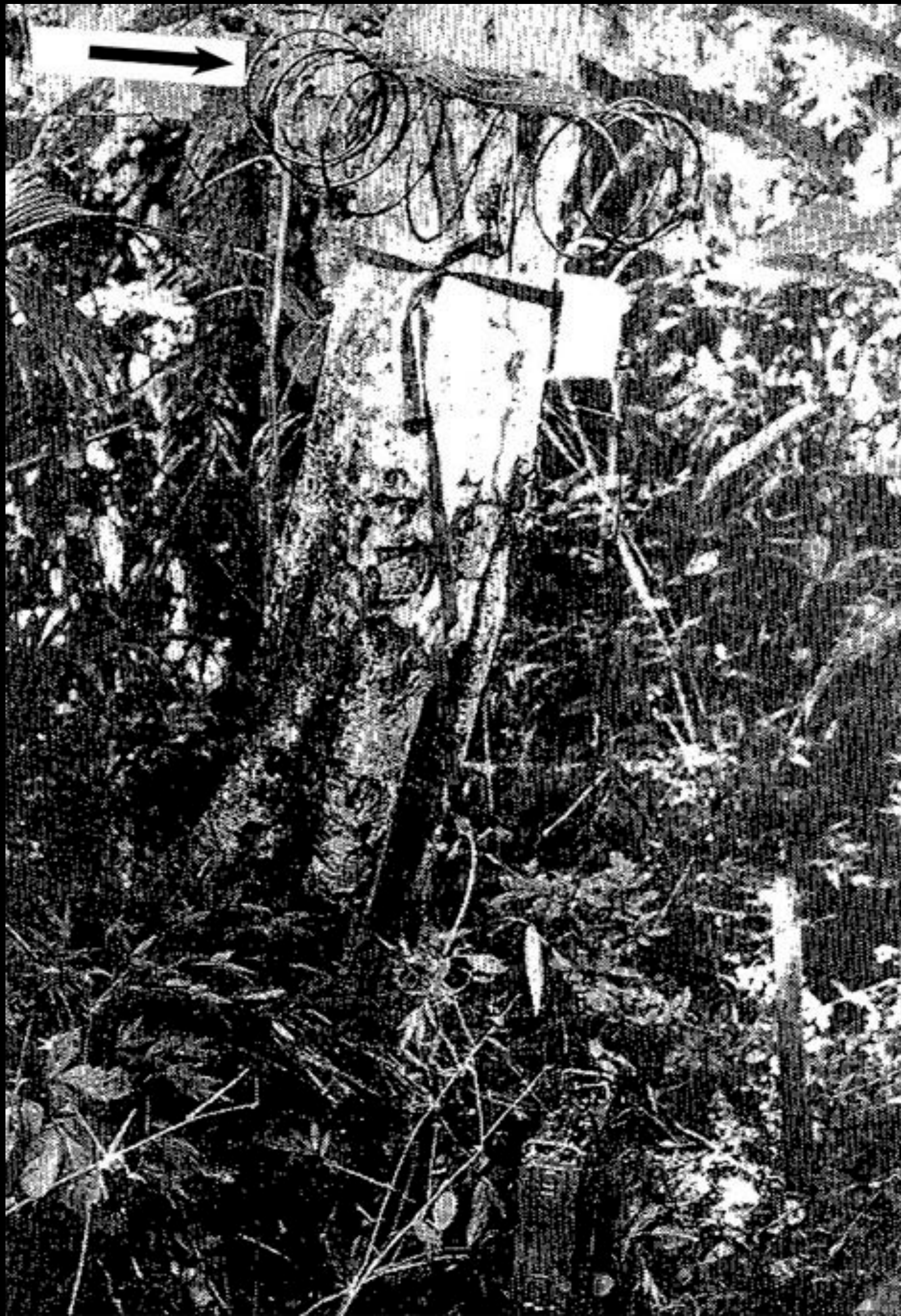
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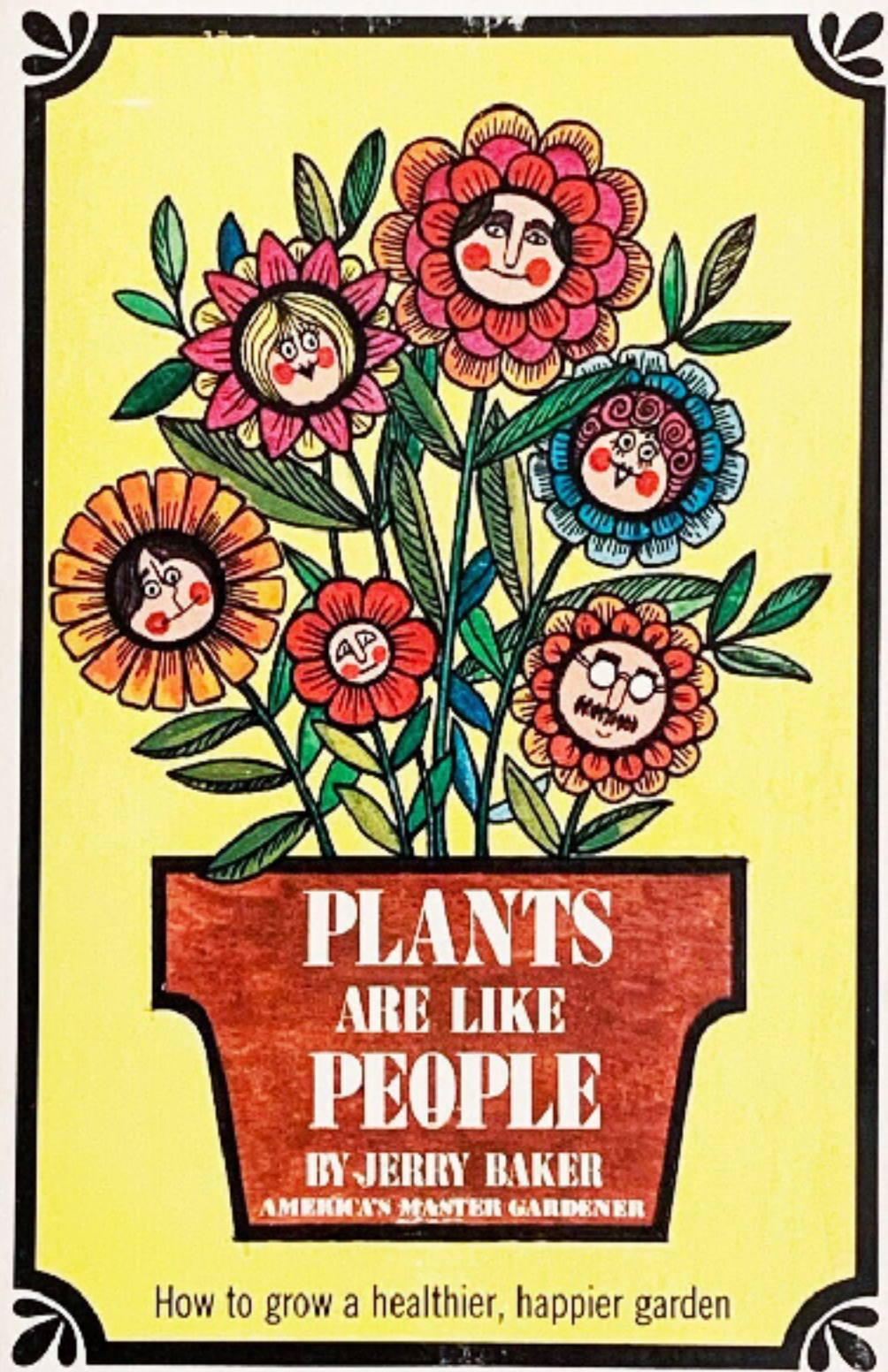
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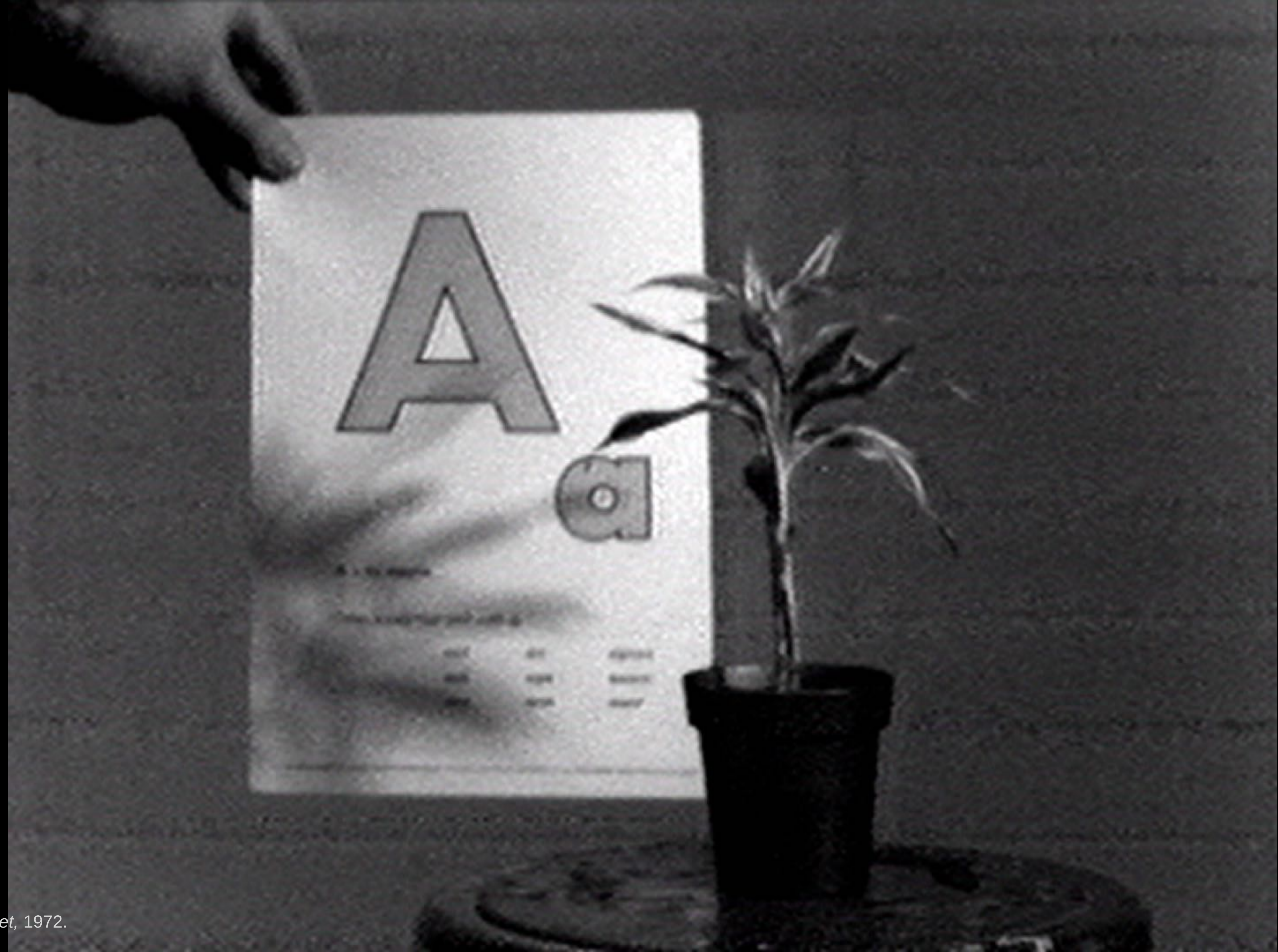
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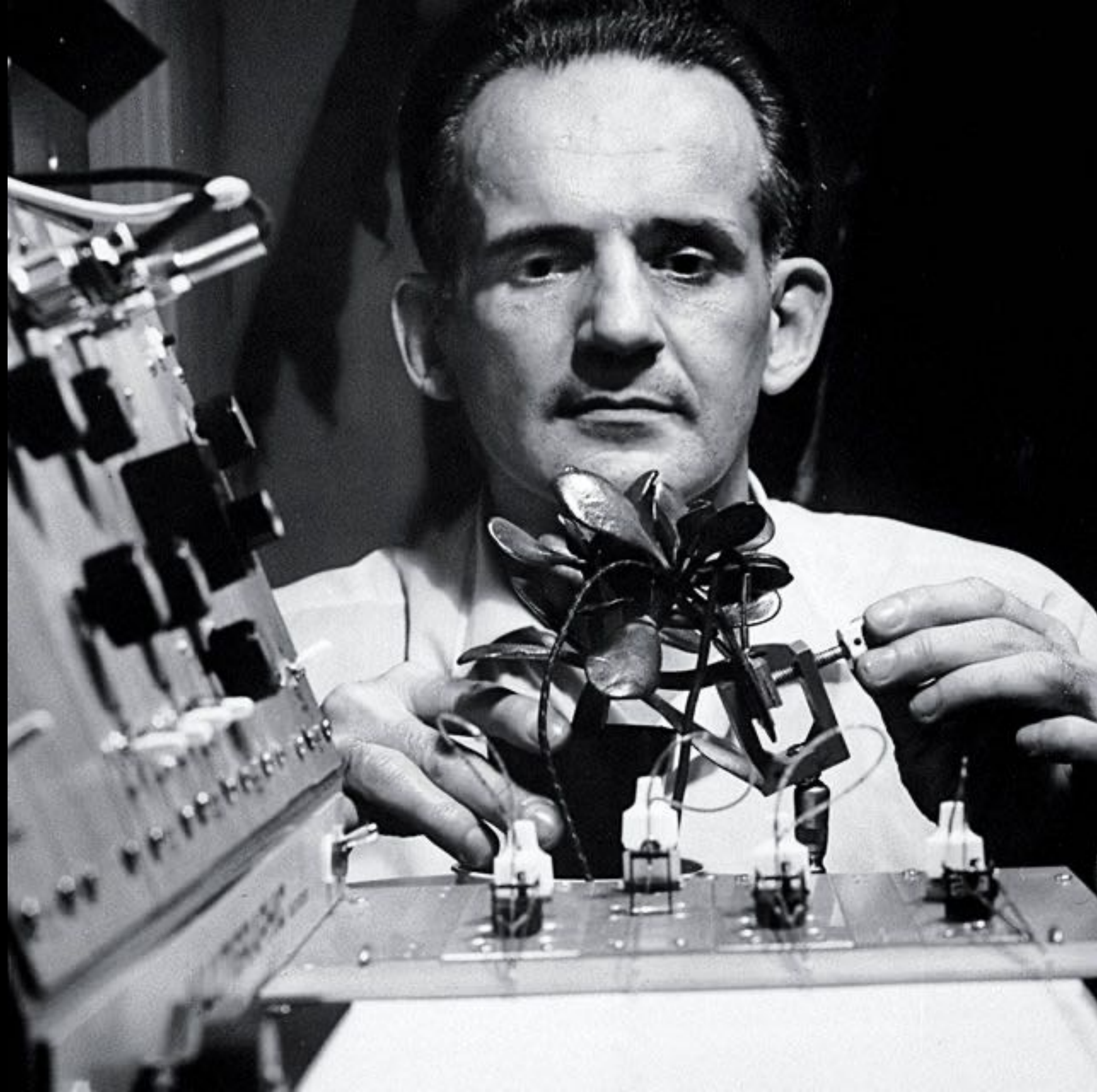
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PveWXfUZEJg>

STEVIE WONDER'S

Journey Through

The Secret Life of Plants





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBZy1LwtKOM&t=2184s>



03 — Non-human vision

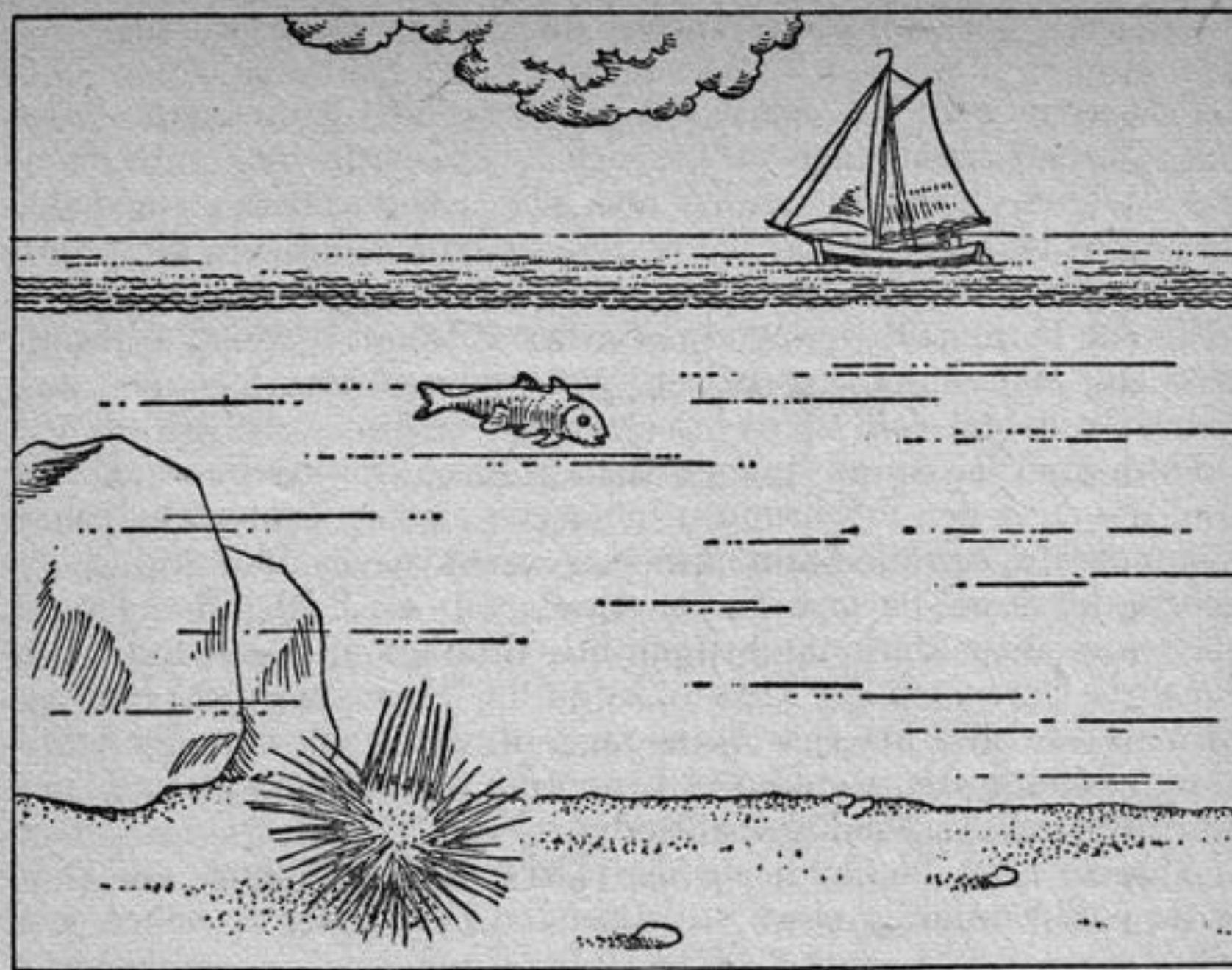


Abb. 19 a. Umgebung des Seeigels

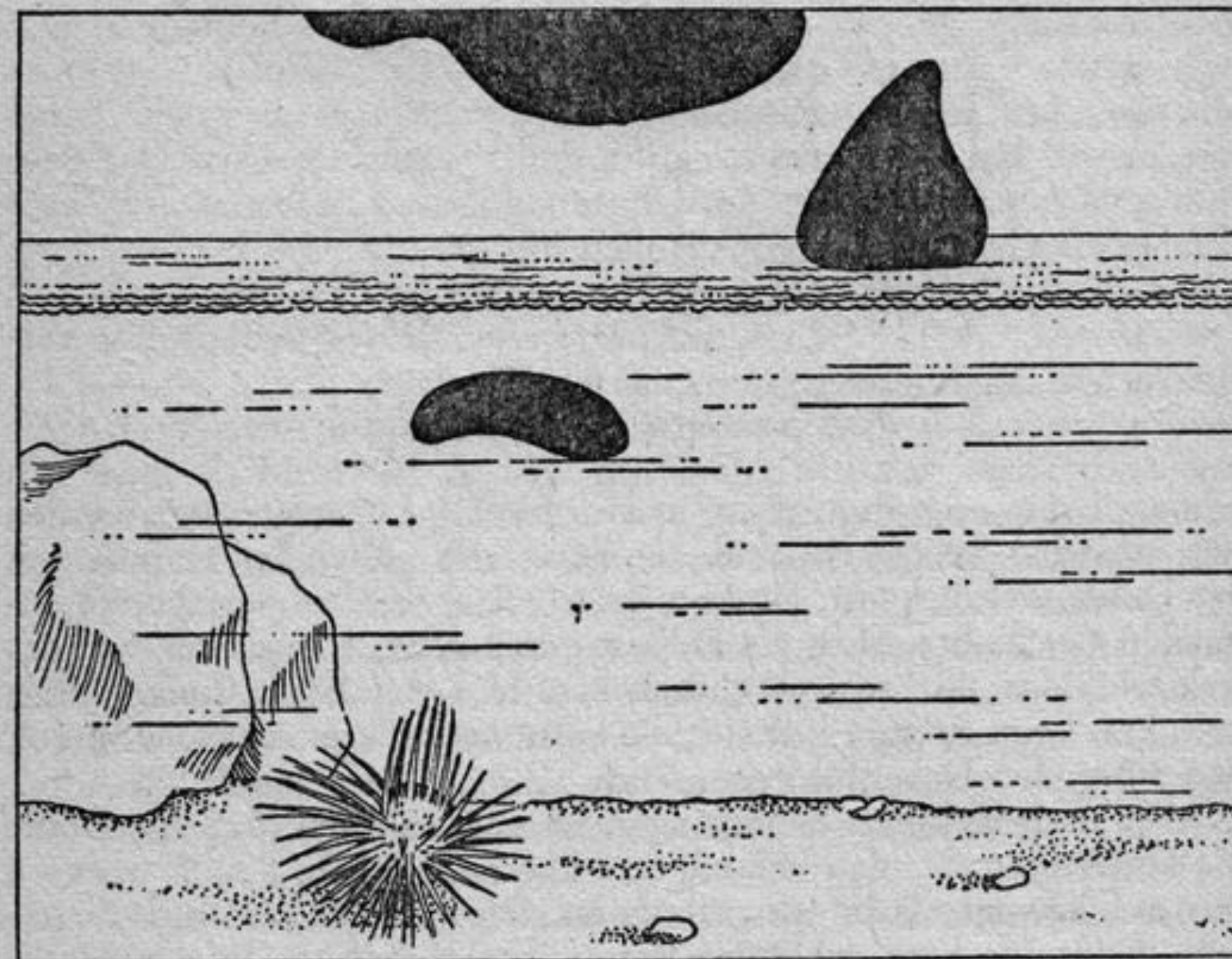


Abb. 19 b. Umwelt des Seeigels



FIG. 9a
A village street, photograph



FIG. 9c

The same village street as seen by a fly

<https://youtu.be/VR5hFxeBaFY?si=vXlvqUeBy5jyu0sz>



<https://vimeo.com/370495391>



<https://vimeo.com/173597240>





Merci

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