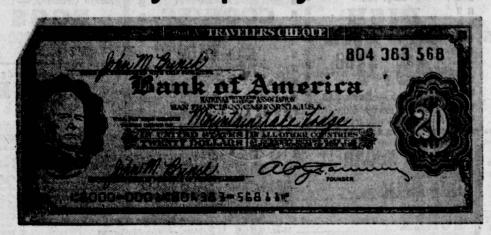
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## He Cocks His Ears to Catch Planet X Radio

suspect, is interested in space, so there reached this desk a book published last earth had intelligent, inquiryear called "Interstellar ing life, but without elec-Communication."

Communication."

It is a symposium from a score of top scientists in fields likely to be involved in a search for intelligent extraterrestrial life. For some years a group of cosmologists have been devising radio experiments in the search. search. Even with some medita-

Even with some medita-tion you might suppose there are 50 factors to be consid-ered in this project. Read this book and you will see at least 500. Obviously only one factor can be touched

one factor can be touched here.

The difficulty is not to postulate other stars like our own having planetary systems in which life may exist. Most cosmologists and biologists now concede it. The difficulty is to find any planet, presumably in our Galaxy, in which life is at the exact stage in which the exact stage in which radio communication is pos-

Consider that in the time of Archimedes (250 B. C.) or Newton (1700 A.D.) the tronic capacity. Consider again that 1,000 years hence, if man survives, we will have X times the capacity to communicate we have to-

But what is 40 years of radio communication (or 1,000 years), in the evolution of stars, planets or plane-tary inhabitants? That poses

tary inhabitants? That poses the question.

The round figure for the stellar population of our Galaxy is 100 billion. Rule out the great population of double stars and stars unlike our sun, and Shapley and others have estimated "several" billion stars with planetary systems. But stars and etary systems. But stars and systems are 4 - 15 billion years old, and a large share are in an evolutionary state in which life has not yet appeared, or is already extinct. So some estimate 10. tinct. So some estimate 10 million stars with at least one planet resembling earth.

That's a lot of congener earths, but here a new problem emerges. The earth is 4-5 billion years old, but only for 20 years, say 1/200,000ths of its age, have its inhabitants been capable of sending and receiving sign. of sending and receiving sig-nals a c r o s s intergalactic

To communicate, we must have extraterrestrial life which is at our technological which is at our technological stage, or better. But clearly this is a very small time sec-tor in the life of a planet. There is also a question whether, having achieved a high technology, living be-ings destroy themselves. So altogether our potentially communicating planets num-ber a small fraction of the hypothetical 10 million.

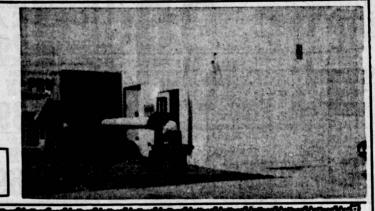
ber a small fraction of the hypothetical 10 million. Notwithstanding, reputa-ble cosmologists are work-ing at it. When you consider it requires nine years to put a question and get an answer from the nearest star, you see they will be working at it for some time.

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