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MON 23RD FEB 70.

Institute of Applied Science
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INSTITUTE OF
27 JAN 1970
APPLIED SCIENCE

Dear Mr & Fowler,

PENDULUM CONTROLLED WATER CLOCK

After these several months — often despairing of reaching my objective — I have at long last "completed" the automatic control device for the water supply and the new clock will now run for over a week on ordinary tap water. The automatic device will compensate for both (a) the slow clogging up of the fine plastic tube due to invisible dirt and algae and (b) wide changes in temperature, greater than would be likely to occur in your museum. (Water must be added to the main tanks of course every 36-40 hours).

For public display however, I would recommend that the water be both filtered and have copper sulphate added as you suggested. Under these conditions I guess the clock would run for a month without the simple operation of pushing a length of wire through the plastic tube to clear it.

To come now to the main point in writing this letter:—

2.

I will be referring to the "old clock", which the one you actually saw in operation, and the "new clock" which I have made with the intention of handing over for your museum. With all the work I have put into both of them I feel very attached to both of them and would like to retain legal possession of both. Can it be arranged therefore that the clock which goes to the museum will be clearly displayed as being ON LOAN from me? If it should turn out that you regard it as interesting enough to the public to keep on permanent display (as opposed to part time in the store room of old relics), then I am sure I would be happy to turn it over to you as a gift. But if it proves to be so unreliable or of so little interest that it must be removed from public display I would like it back home to play with.

If you still wish to display such a clock then I would like you to make a choice between the old clock and the new clock. Both clocks look hideous but the new clock is even more hideous than the old.

The old clock has the great virtue of

3.

extreme simplicity. Any intelligent child can see how it works — there is nothing to distract the attention from picking up the drop of water at the top and dropping it delicately into the pool at the bottom. And this action, after all, is the vital principle of the clock. Even with tap water the old clock will run for some days without attention and with filtered copper-sulphated water it would probably run a week or so.

The new clock has the great virtue (to me) of running for a longer time without requiring attention other than the inevitable replenishment of the main tank. BUT (a) it is a terrible Heath-Robinsonish looking contraption (b) the vital principle of the water-drop drive is almost obscured by the addition of the automatic control contraption (c) few intelligent adults understand the automatic control and (d) the more complex arrangement might prove to be a burden on the people who maintain the clock in operation.

You will understand that I am trying to give you an objective pre-view of the situation. Before you make your decision — and I don't mind in the least which way it goes — I think it would be advisable for either you or Mr Kendall to come out again, if you can spare

4.
the time, and look over both clocks and
ask all the questions you want and carry
out any tests or trials that might help you.

During such a visit we could discuss
how to move the clock etc. I would of
course be only too willing to let the clock
up in your workshop so that you could have
some days or weeks of trial operation. And
I would be happy to come in subsequently
at any time to try and rectify ~~and~~ any
faults.

It must be borne in mind that it
is only a bit of bush-craftsmanship - it is
not really a museum piece.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart (E.S. NURSE).