

# Amplified smell

While telescopes, microphones, etc., have been invented to extend the range of many of our senses, nobody has ever invented a smell amplifier. Daedalus now fills this long-smelt want with the DREADCO 'Meganose'. This simple gadget fastens over the wearer's nose like a large snout. A rapid stream of the surrounding air is blown over a small endlessly-rotating belt cooled to liquid air temperature, so that all odiferous volatiles condense on it. Its rotation takes it through a warming chamber where they are re-evaporated into the wearer's breathing-tube. Because the airstream from which the smell-substances were extracted has a thousand times the volume of the inhaling-air into which they are then released, they reach the nose in a thousand times their natural concentration. This high amplification — which can be made even higher by repeating the process in a second stage — will open up a whole new nasal world. On entering a room we would be immediately aware who was present, who had been there in the past and for

how long, by the strength and persistence of their individual odours. A brief sniff would reveal who has left the tap running, or whether the cat really had brought that strange object in. Even the effluvia of overheated wiring, tiny gas-leaks, or a misplaced kipper, might readily be spotted in time to avert disaster.

Tracking down the sources of such smells would present problems, however. Daedalus proposes a two-channel meganose with twin air-intakes to right and left like a bicycle's handlebars. With each intake feeding its respective nostril, the hitherto unknown sensation of 'stereo smell' should result, enabling one to locate instantly the source of the faintest aroma. Clearly this coupling of bloodhound nasal acuity with human intelligence bodes ill for the criminal, who cannot avoid leaving comprehensive aromacues all around the scene of his crime. But the scent of the police should also be detectable from some way off . . .  
(*New Scientist*, 21 September 1972)



DREADCO's 'Meganose' smell amplifier  
(the 'Bloodhound' forensic model)



Close-up attachment for the 'Bloodhound'



Centrifugal  
blower

Primary  
air in

Gain  
(blower  
control)

Primary air  
nitrogen  
boil-off out

# STEREO MEGANOSE (detail of right-hand channel)

