

Following this, the activity diminishes progressively both in frequency and amplitude until very low amplitude movements only can be seen from 400 to 464 sec.

Qualitatively, all the results presented here can be obtained by visual observation. Thus preening movement appears 'faster' than walking and Hk<sup>1</sup> flies seem 'more active' than an iav fly. Thus the validity of the method is more in quantification and objective comparison of various types of activities. Once the system is calibrated for specific activities, these can be characterized by spectral analysis. It should then be possible to detect specific activities from continuous spectral display recordings, thus comparisons of the duration of each type of activity, or how much time a certain mutant spends on preening, walking, etc., can be made. Further experi-

mentation along these lines is in progress. Silent periods between bursts of activity may be used as well to characterize behaviour of different mutants. This is evident in the more even scatter of black patches on the y-axis in figure 2C representing more or less equally interspersed rest and activity periods in the wild type flies, as compared with longer spans of activity in figure 2A, representing the long bursts of tumbling as observed visually exhibited by the As mutant.

We are also using the same grid-photocell-spectral analysis method to characterize sperm motility. Thus the method may have general applicability to motion analysis if a suitable optical system (macro, micro or telescopic) is used.

## CONGRESSUS

### DDR – Czechoslovakia

#### Federation of European Biochemical Societies, 12th FEBS-Meeting

*in Dresden (DDR), 2–8 July 1978*

*A post-congress FEBS-symposium on 'Antimetabolites in Biochemistry, Biology and Medicine' will be held in Prague (CSSR), 10–12 July 1978*

Preliminary registration form (mailed together with the preliminary registration form for FEBS-Meeting, before 1 September 1977) to the following address: FEBS-Meeting, P.O. Box 313, DDR-806 Dresden.

### Italy

#### EUCHEM Conference. Phase-transfer catalysis and related topics

*in Gargnano (Lake Garda), 5–10 June 1978*

Plenary lectures will include: A. Brändström, Sweden; J. A. Fendler, USA; H. H. Freedman, USA; G. N. Gokel, USA; J. M. Lehn, France; M. Makosza, Poland; F. Montanari, Italy; J. P. Sauvage, France; C. M. Starks, USA; R. Ugo, Italy.

Enquiries to Prof. Mauro Cinquini, Istituto de Chimica Industriale, Università di Milano, via C. Golgi 19, I-20133 Milano, Italy.

### Protons and ions involved in fast dynamic phenomena

*30th international meeting of the Société de Chimie physique, Paris, 28 November–2 December 1977*

Contributions and requests for information should be addressed to the general secretary of this 30th meeting: Dr. C. Troyanowsky, 10, rue Vauquelin, F-75231 Paris Cédex 05 (France).

## CONSTRUCTIONES

### European Pineal Study Group

An association of European scientists working on, or interested in, the vertebrate pineal organ has been formed. The aims of the European Pineal Study Group are to promote the development of pineal research in Europe, and to facilitate the contacts between the different European teams. It will do so especially by organizing small colloquia on pineal research.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from: Dr P. Pevet, Secretary of the E.P.S.G., The Netherlands Institute for Brain Research, Ijdijk 28, Amsterdam-O., The Netherlands.