

pattern for any reaction under such circumstances involves a temporal factor whether the reactor analyzes the temporal factor or not.

Whether a certain group of reactions to a visual stimulus are of the "simple reaction" or the "complication" type can usually be decided from the average value, even where the conditions of reaction are not fully described. If the average is over 120 *sigma*, the reactions were mostly of the "simple reaction" type, although (if we do not know all the conditions) we can not be assured that some reactions of the other type may not have been mixed in. If, however, the average is under 50 *sigma*, we can be certain that the reactions were practically all of the "complication" type, since the "simple reaction" will seldom occur if conditions are such that the "complication" reaction can occur, and is occurring in the majority of cases.

With these facts in view, it seems to me that there is no room for confusion between the conceptions of the psychologist and those of the astronomers.

KNIGHT DUNLAP

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

#### AEROBIC?

DR. W. W. KEEN's objection to the word "erobic" (*SCIENCE*, March 23, p. 360) is perfectly valid. However, the substitute he proposes is equally objectionable. The Greek

word is  $\alpha\eta\rho$ . Like most of our Greek words this comes to us through the Latin transcription, in this case *aër*, formerly written with a dieresis. Now that the dieresis is no longer in vogue, some confusion is apt to occur. At any rate, the word is a dissyllable and not a diphthong. Dr. Keen would not propose the use of a diphthong in the words *aerate*, *aerial*, *aeronaut*, etc.

ARTHUR W. DOX

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*—Dr. Dox surely has misread my letter in *SCIENCE* protesting against "erobic." I urged the retention of the "aer" as a dissyllable. Personally I should use the diacritical mark to indicate the proper pronunciation.

The dropping of all accents in French by the newspapers during the war is wrecking their pronunciation, e.g., "Poincaré" is often

pronounced "Poin-car" or "Poin-care" and "communiqué" is distorted into "communeek" or even "communeek-quee."

If Dr. Dox will consult the Oxford Dictionary he will find that "disyllable" with one "s" is preferable to double s and that "diphthong" is an obsolete form of "diphthong" which in Greek is spelled with  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  (ph and th).

W. W. KEEN.

#### QUOTATIONS

##### PARK CONSERVATION

No one can justly charge the American Association for the Advancement of Science with flightiness, or suspect it of being swept off its feet through impractical sentimentalism. Its strong plea to the governments and people of the United States and Canada that the great wild parks of both countries be more completely safeguarded against commercial exploitation of every form will, therefore, command attention and respect. The resolutions that the association has now issued upon this subject would seem to indicate that it recognizes the threatened encroachment of power developments within the national parks of both countries. Its appeal is not addressed to this particular menace alone, however, but calls attention to the fact that the parks are in many cases open to incursion by those who regard their various natural resources with covetous eyes. Gradually the public is coming to understand that the national parks are by no means as proof against materialistic raids as had been supposed. This call for a greater degree of protection, coming as it does from one of the most distinguished scientific organizations in the world, will tend to emphasize the situation and carry conviction as to its economic importance.

It will not be suspected that this association is unsympathetic with the endeavors of those who are legitimately developing the resources of the two countries. There is more than an implication in its resolutions, though, that it would be poor business to allow the material resources of the parks to be utilized except in those cases where a compelling and unquestionable public necessity exists. To safeguard the parks more thoroughly against unnecessary utilitarian developments, the association recom-