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# Letters to the Editor

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## Growth of Trophoblast in the Anterior Chamber of the Eye of the Rabbit

Criteria which have been established for characterizing malignant tissue by means of the technique of transplanting tissue fragments into the anterior chamber of the eye of rabbits appear to be fulfilled by trophoblastic tissue. Trophoblast obtained from human placentae of about five-month pregnancies grows rapidly in the anterior chamber and infiltrates the eye. These results confirm similar work performed by Kido in 1937 (I. Kido. *Centralbl. Gynaek.*, 1937, 61, 1551; *Ber. wiss. Biol. (Maly's)*, 1937, 44, 493). Experimental details will be published elsewhere.

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## The Pelletier and Caventou Monument in Paris

Among the bronze monuments melted down for conversion into weapons in the countries overrun and occupied by the Nazis in World War II was the statue of the pharmacists, Pelletier and Caventou, the discoverers of quinine, erected in Paris in 1900 and paid for by contributions from all parts of the world.

It would be an excellent manifestation of good will if American scientists, if the American people, would replace the destroyed statue by another and more beautiful one. The new monument would stand not only as a renewed tribute to a scientific deed of highest value to the human race but simultaneously as a symbol of the victory of humanity over brutality.

If this suggestion meets with general approval, a committee should be formed to deal with the questions concerned (collection of necessary funds, communication with the Société de Pharmacie de Paris, the American and French authorities, etc.).

The undersigned would be only too glad to aid in the realization of this project to the best of his ability.

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## Some X-Ray Crystallographic Data on DDT

In the course of an X-ray and optic study of analogues of DDT we have had occasion to include DDT itself. Our results do not agree completely with those reported previously by G. L. Clark and F. W. Cagle, Jr., in a note to this journal (*Science*, 1945, 101, 465-466). DDT crystallizes in the orthorhombic system, and our lattice dimensions agree fairly well with those reported. Beyond this point no agreement exists.

The material used was a highly purified sample of DDT obtained through repeated recrystallizations from ethanol, having a melting point of 108.5-109° C. The crystals

were long tabular needles. An optic study showed the  $\beta$  vibration direction to be along the needle length. DDT is a positive biaxial crystal with  $\gamma$  normal to the main face. These data agree with the optic study made by E. L. Gooden (*J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1945, 67, 1616-1617).

X-ray data were obtained from Weissenberg diagrams about all three crystallographic axes. The unit cell dimensions are:

|                   | OUR DATA              | CLARK, <i>et al.</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a =               | $19.14 \pm .08$ A. U. | a = 19.25            |
| b =               | $9.96 \pm .04$        | b = 10.04            |
| (needle axis) c = | $7.85 \pm .04$        | c = 7.73             |

The space group is  $P_{bc}$  or  $P_{bcm}$  and not  $P_{222}$ , as previously reported by Clark and Cagle. The density was measured by suspending the crystals in an aqueous KI solution of the same density, which was 1.556. There are four molecules per unit cell. The X-ray molecular weight is 353 as compared to 354.5 computed for  $C_{14}H_9Cl_5$ .

Powder diagrams check with the data published in *Science*, but we have been unable to confirm the indices assigned to many of the lines.

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## The Best Defense

The challenge hurled at civilization by the atomic bomb not only provides motivation for men of different nations to live in peace, but also signalizes a procedure by which they may learn how to do this. For if, by employing the scientific method, men can come to understand and control the atom, there is reasonable likelihood that they can in the same way learn to understand and control human group behavior.

It is most unfortunate that science is being considered in the current press as merely the body of knowledge mankind has amassed about certain phenomena. During the Middle Ages an equally tremendous body of knowledge was accumulated which was in no way science. The important thing about science is the method of observing, classifying, and generalizing so that the body of knowledge is verifiable. This method has proved more useful in each field in which it has been exploited than any other method employed in that field.

Human behavior, like atomic behavior, is a natural phenomenon, capable of observation, classification, and generalization according to the same rules by which science has been so successful wherever it has been applied to natural phenomena. It would seem evident, therefore, that *social science*, in the strictest sense, offers a defense against further use of the atomic bomb with a greater probability of success than any other method now known.

Three or four years ago when warring peoples desperately felt the need of victory, it was not thought for a moment that this motivation alone would produce victory.