

# Comments and Communications

## Mathematical Association Resolution

IN SCIENCE for August 10, 1951, there appeared a communication from Professor Lee Lorch, of Fisk University, on the topic of "Discriminatory Practices." Readers of SCIENCE will probably be interested in the following resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America at its meeting of September 3, 1951. The secretary was also directed to read this resolution at the meeting of the Association on September 4 and to include the resolution in the official report of the meeting to be published in the *American Mathematical Monthly*. The resolution is as follows:

*Resolved:* The Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America affirms its steady intention to conduct the scientific meetings, social gatherings, and other affairs of the Association so as to promote the interests of Mathematics without discrimination as to race, creed or color. The President of the Association is hereby authorized and requested to determine the best means for avoiding discrimination, by consultation on this subject with the various chairmen and secretaries of sections and other appropriate members of the Association, and to report the results of this consultation to the Board.

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## Mobilization of the Reserve

THE item in SCIENCE for July 27, 1951, entitled "The Reservist Problem," is not a fair statement of the facts. From personal experience, I know that the Department of Defense has been very slow in calling up scientists in the Reserve. There is functioning a sensible policy for granting delays in reporting for duty, if the individual can show cause based on dependency, research or teaching activities, status as a graduate student, or civilian usefulness in the interests of national health and safety. The blanket deferment of scientists would be a wasteful and thoroughly un-American procedure.

It is a bit tiresome to listen to the complaints of commissioned reservists who fear recall to active duty. No one asked them to stay in the Reserve. They were apparently glad to soak up the gravy—to accumulate points for promotion and retirement by attending "training" meetings near home; some even collected monthly pay checks for inactive duty training. One is hardly impressed by the sincerity of such persons who are now wailing in the expectation of recall to active duty.

The only excuse for having a Reserve is to form a pool of experienced men ready to answer a call to active military service with a minimum of delay. I marvel at the patience of our military leaders who are

confronted with such unwarranted complaints as the one published in SCIENCE.

The claim that military service is leading the country to scientific suicide is pure fiction. In a few highly specialized fields there may be a shortage of technical men. In the majority of scientific specialties, the supply is adequate—and graduate schools are grinding out Ph.D.s at an increasing rate. University and governmental scientific projects are adequately staffed. To date, replacements are not hard to get.

Before our leaders pay undue heed to the demands made by some scientists that they be treated as a chosen group, to be pampered indulgently, I feel that these calamity howlers should prove their point *scientifically* and not by rhetoric or by reference to isolated incidents of misuse of scientists by the services.

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## An Auditory Sound Association Technique<sup>1</sup>

PSYCHOLOGISTS and psychiatrists frequently rely upon projective techniques in evaluation of personality structure. These techniques permit the individual to give to a picture or visual image the feelings and meanings he carries within himself. They commonly afford a short cut to understanding patients.

Almost all such tests have been in the field of visual association; with the exception of Skinner's work (1-3) and the more recent work of Stone (4), the associations with sounds have been neglected. In order to give clinical psychologists and psychiatrists a working series of sounds that would represent a clinical test, the following work has been done.

Recordings of 100 sounds of varying sorts were played to 117 subjects, and from this first group of sounds certain types have been selected. These sounds have been chosen because they produce a greater response and a more varied content of response and also because they were rejected for significant reasons. The sounds that constitute the present clinical technique are as follows:

1. TRAIN (Leaving station, crowd, depot noises.)
2. SEAGULL, SEA WASH BACKGROUND, CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO MEN:
  - A. Is that enough. . . ?
  - B. Yah.
  - A. How much is that?
  - B. (pause). Well, just about right . . . isn't it?
  - A. I think that's just about right.
  - B. Put that away now.
  - A. Just about right.
  - B. Would that cover it better?
  - A. Put it away now; are you set?
  - B. O. K., let's go.
3. CHILD CRY AND SEAGULLS, SOFT BACKGROUND.

<sup>1</sup> Project carried out under a research grant from the Palo Alto Medical Research Foundation.