others which have been brought to my attention would have been quite justifiable. The observations were made in the course of a study of other characteristics of the tumor in question which will be reported later.

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March 22, 1954.

Alas for Human Frailties!

As an English teacher and editor I fully agree with Eugene S. McCartney's admonitions in "Does writing make an exact man?" [*Science* Apr. 23, 1954]. But alas for human frailty! In the very paragraph in which Dr. McCartney deplores "errors of fact and lapses of memory" there occurs precisely such a fault —the more egregious because it is committed in the act of chastising another writer for a supposed mistake. What Dr. McCartney wrote is this:

> In a recent issue of our most literary magazine, a gifted scholar speaks of *Webster's New World Dictionary,* a glaring inadvertence that all readers of the manuscript and proof should have noticed. (The word *international* subconsciously suggested to the author the partial synonym *world.*)

The reference is to an article by Jacques Barzun in the Dec. 1953 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly,* and the error is not Dr. Barzun's, nor are the readers of Barzun's manuscript and proof deserving of rebuke. Dr. McCartney should have looked up before he leaped. Barzun praised and intended to praise *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language* (World Publishing Co., Cleveland, 1953), not *Webster's New International Dictionary,* published by the G. & C. Merriam Company; I know this because he made his purpose quite clear in correspondence with me about the *New World Dictionary,* of which I am general editor.

All of which, of course, merely underscores the validity of Dr. McCartney's exhortations and injunctions to writers. (But I confess to some slight surprise at the nodding of *Science's* editorial staff which let his slip pass in the night; after all, the NWD has been pretty widely advertised for over a year, and even Dr. Barzun's omission of the last four words of the full title—a common enough practice—ought not to have induced unwariness.)

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April 29, 1954.

Dr. McCartney, having seen Prof. Friend's letter, writes to us that the error he committed illustrates a point he made in his article, namely, that it is virtually impossible to write a perfect article. As for the "nodding of Science's editorial staff," the editor admits that he had let the existence of the dictionary in question slip completely out of his mind as a result of having read Carlton F. Well's review of it in The Saturday Review (of Literature) *last year. As for the dictionary having been pretty widely advertised, the only publicity that we have seen—other than Prof. Well's unfavorable review—came out too late to be of help to us. We refer to Norman Cousin's editorial in* The Saturday Review *for May 15, page 24, and to the news item, "Editor's Decision," in* Newsweek *for May 24, page 58.*

Effects of Itrumil (New Antithyroid Agent) on the Histological Structure of the Rat Thyroid

The subcutaneous injection into mature male and female rats of 50 mg of Itrumil (5-iodo-2-thiouracil) dissolved in 2 ml of distilled water at room temperature for a period of 12 days produced the histological picture in the thyroid glands shown in Fig. 1. The daily dosage was injected in two equal amounts.

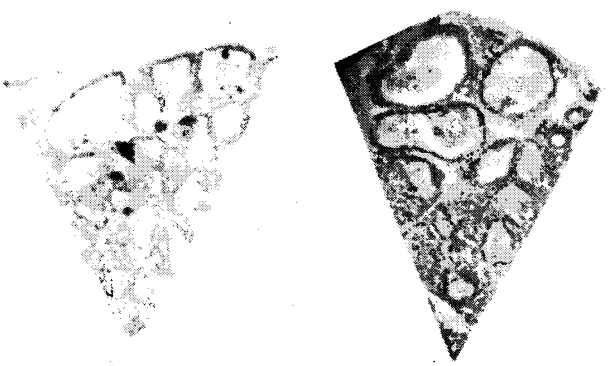

Fig. 1 (left). Photomicrograph (approximately ×100, enlarged 3 times) of cross sections of thyroid glands of rats subcutaneously injected with Itrumil. Fig. 2 (right). Photomicrograph (approximately × 100, enlarged 3 times) of cross sections of thyroid glands of untreated control rats.

The histological picture in Fig. 1 is similar to that described by Barrett, Gassner, and Dittmer (*1*) and by Barrett and Gassner (*2*). My results support those of Barrett and others in that the data and figures show that there are no histological differences between the thyroid glands of the untreated control animals shown in Fig. 2 and those of the experimental animals. In both groups the larger thyroid follicles were invariably at the periphery and surrounded by an epithelium of flattened cells, the smaller follicles were more centrally located and surrounded by an epithelium of cuboidal cells, and all follicles contained a good quality of colloid.

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References

1. H. W. Barrett, F. X. Gassner, and K. Dittmer, *Endocrinol.* **48**, 189 (1951).
2. H. W. Barrett and F. X. Gassner, *Endocrinol.* **48**, 197 (1951).

May 5, 1954.