LETTERS

The editors take no responsibility for the content of the letters published in this section. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Letters intended for publication should be typewritten double-spaced and submitted in duplicate. A letter writer should indicate clearly whether or not his letter is submitted for publication. For additional information, see Science 124, *249 (1956) and* 125, *16 (4 Jan. 1957).*

Reference Citations

The citation of references in scientific papers should enable the reader to locate the specific point in the referent article quickly and efficiently. The usual method of citing a reference does not accomplish this purpose, for, ordinarily, only the first page of the article or the inclusive pages are given in the reference. Only in the case of books is the page number given. When a highly specific point is made, which may be buried in a table, footnote, or paragraph, it frequently becomes a very difficult task to locate and verify the information, especially when the paper is long or involved. We have run into this difficulty, especially in citations for enzymatic inhibitors, activators, melting points and other physical constants, and data and procedures which may be incidental to the main subject of the paper.

It is, therefore, suggested that when a highly specific point is referred to in a paper, the usual reference be given in whatever style the journal requires, followed by a more specific citation in parentheses. The following hypothetical example will illustrate this point. A. N. Jones and J. A. Smith, *J. Biol Chem.* 89, 54 (1984) (p. 56), (56), or (56, Table III), or (56, paragraph 2), and so forth.

The attention of editors of scientific journals to this matter is recommended.

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When authors of papers supply the information, Science *does just what Green and Schlein ask for, although not exactly in the form that they suggest.*

Tools for Communication

Language is our box of tools for thinking and for communication. The tools (words) ought to be kept sharp (precisely defined). The invention of new tools (words and symbols) for new uses (concepts), and for the old ones too, is to be encouraged. The sooner an inconvenient tool is replaced by a more effective one, the better.

I have a pet aversion, namely, the term *milligrams percent,* meaning milligrams of solute in 100 milliliters of solu-