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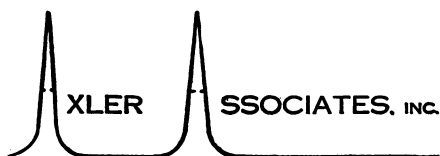
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Letters

On the Pay of Biologists

The announcement "Pay Up for Some Government Scientists" in a recent issue of *Science* [127, 21 (3 Jan. 1958)] states that biologists are not included in the pay increase. This seems to be an old and perennial problem among the biologists. I am reminded of the following note I came across this past summer while reading through some old correspondence of the naturalists (Hyatt, Packard, Putnam, and Morse) who founded the Peabody Museum of Salem, the *American Naturalist*, and the American Society of Naturalists.

Rochester, New York
May 18, 1870

I am well aware that works of scientific character are not remunerative, and regret that you have not received the money [subscription money sent to the *American Naturalist*, not properly credited]. Scientific men get much less for their services than any other class of workers. Audubon's great work on birds was a failure in a pecuniary point of view. Le Balian, the great African traveler, died absolutely poor. I am informed our great American botanist Asa Gray gets the meager sum of fifteen hundred dollars a year for his valuable services. And many others might be mentioned of like character.

Sincerely yours,
ROBERT BUNKER

The biologist continues to be low man on the scientific totem pole.

RALPH W. DEXTER
Department of Biology, Kent State
University, Kent, Ohio

Department of Science

In the editorial of the 31 January issue of *Science* [127, 213 (1958)], you question the effectiveness and usefulness of a Secretary of Science, and it seems to me that you prefer the idea of adding a science adviser to some Government departments. There may be a possibility of joining these two ideas: The Secretary of Science would appoint the science advisers for the different departments, so that no overlapping would occur. In this way the Secretary of Science would have a great responsibility and a very useful task.

But this is not all. There is no longer any value in having a combined Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Each activity in itself is too great a task for the three to be handled together by one department. The best thing would be to separate the "Education" and to put it under the Secretary of Science. There are so many things to decide, to order, to explore, and to alter that this Department of Science would be fully occupied. There would be one office which could make decisions for the nation and for all levels of schools as well