Letters

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made after removal by filtration of almost all living plant and animal cells and larger particulate matter. We were interested in whether the bound polyphosphates on clay micelles can be released and used by phytoplankton, but we had difficulty with analyses of soluble phosphorus and did not get all the data desired. Several analyses showed, however, that soluble phosphorus was almost nil, indicating the complete removal of this form by plankton. Furthermore, we did have several short-period (rather than minor) blooms of phytoplankton which almost certainly required more than minimal quantities of phosphorus.

A single bloom of *Anabaena* in each of the two more fertile ponds reached 10,000 and 40,000 colonies per cubic centimeter, respectively. In two ponds the average population of phytoplankton was around 300 to 500 cells per cubic centimeter.

We have a longer paper in preparation which gives more complete data.

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Professions

The letter entitled "What is a profession?" [*Science* **129**, 1688 (1959)] prompts me to send you the definition credited to Justice Brandeis: "A profession is an occupation requiring preliminary *intellectual* training, pursued primarily for others and not merely oneself, and accepting as the measure of achievement one's contribution to society rather than individual financial reward."

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W. W. Benton, in his letter "What is a profession?," states, "Only three of these require certification, namely, medicine, education and, *in some states,* engineering" (italics mine).

This statement is incorrect, as all our 50 states and Puerto Rico now require registration for an engineer to practice. This, of course, means independently and for a consideration. Thus, an engineer can practice his profession without being registered if this is done under the supervision of a registered professional engineer, who assumes the responsibility for such engineering work.

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