term stability disturbance waveform can be observed on an oscilloscope or spectrum analyzer. (Pitometer Log Corp., Dept. Sci228, 237 Lafayette St., New York 12, N.Y.)

■ OSMOMETER determines the vapor-pressure lowering of dissolved solutes by comparison of rates of evaporation of unknown and reference solutions. Small drops of solutions are placed in small loops formed by thermocouples. The assembly is placed in a chamber humidified by an aliquot of the reference material, and temperature difference is observed when steady state has been reached (about 15 min). (Rosemount Engineering Co., Dept. Sci229, Minneapolis, Minn.)

■ AUDIO RESPONSE PLOTTER provides a continuous single-sweep 20- to 20,000-cy/sec test signal and records test-system output on a 40 db-range logarithmic chart of a pen recorder. The oscillator is directly connected to the recording drum. Sensitivity is sufficient to record signals 40 db down from 10 mv. (Southwestern Industrial Electronics, Inc., Dept. Sci232, 10201 Westheimer Rd., Houston 19, Tex.)

■ HARDNESS TESTER is adapted to measurement of radioactive metals by mechanical linkages that extend control functions through the wall of a test cell. Seals on each coupler permit the cell to be isolated from outside atmosphere. Both Knoop and 136-deg diamond pyramid indenters are used with a dual system of weights from 1-to-3000 and 1-to-10,000 gm. Images from the viewing microscope are brought to an eyepiece outside the test cell. A mechanical stage carrying a turntable vise provides accurate traverses in two directions. Vise jaws can accommodate specimens up to 1¼ in. in diameter. The latter must be placed in the vise by mechanical hands or other accessory systems. (American Chair and Cable Co., Dept. Sci236, 929 Connecticut Ave., Bridgeport 2, Conn.)

■ CLEANLINESS TESTER assigns numerical values to surface cleanliness where nonbonded soils are involved. Soil is removed from the surface under test by pressure-sensitive tape and the latter is fixed to a microscope slide. Optical density of the composite is measured by the tester which is a densitometer specifically designed for that purpose. Reading is provided by a linear 0-to-1000 scale with accuracy said to be $1/10^3$. Branson Ultrasonic Corp., Dept. Sci237, 40 Brown House Rd., Stamford, Conn.)

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Letters

Support of Science by College Student Body

Associated student bodies of American colleges and universities have yearly budgets for student activities which may include hundreds of thousands of dollars. Monies generally come from the sale of student-body tickets, from admissions, and from publications. Expenditures include the support of athletics, music and arts, publications, publicity, administrative salaries, and general activities. In so far as is known by us, no student body has budgeted funds for the support of scientific research.

The Associated Student Body of Long Beach State College established a research board composed of students and faculty to further basic research on the campus. The purposes are (i) to provide increased opportunity for students to engage in scientific research; (ii) to increase scientific knowledge; (iii) to provide an activity which is a source of interest, pride, and prestige for the student body as a whole, and for the college; and (iv) to emphasize the need for acquainting the public with the goals and values of basic research.

The primary function of the research board, consisting of four students and three faculty members from the various areas of science, is to approve deserving research proposals submitted by student-faculty teams. Funds may be used for equipment, supplies, or salaries. Projects will be supported for a 1-year period; however, additional funds may be requested.

While the amount budgeted the first year is small ($1000, representing about 0.6 percent of the total student-body budget), it demonstrates that the undergraduate student realizes the value and the importance of supporting basic research.

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High-Altitude Observation

I have recently read with great interest the article by R. C. Staley "High-altitude observation techniques" [*Science* **130**, 845 (2 Oct. 1959)]. I would like to make the following comments relative to some recent developments.

1) The altitude limit of the rocket-grenade experiment for temperature

and winds has been pushed upward to 94 km. No appreciable further extension is in sight. [See W. G. Stroud, W. R. Bandeen, W. Nordberg, F. L. Bartman, J. Otterman, P. Titus, "Temperatures and winds in the arctic as obtained by the grenade experiment," *IGY Rocket Rept. Ser. No. 1, Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S. Publ.* (1958), pp. 58–79.]

2) The falling-sphere technique for determining upper-atmosphere density, which uses the transit-time accelerometer invented by L. M. Jones, has yielded atmospheric density data in series of experiments during the last few years. [L. M. Jones, F. F. Fischbach, J. W. Peterson, "Seasonal and latitude variations in upper-air density," *IGY Rocket Rept. Ser. No. 1, Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S. Publ.* (1958), pp. 47–57.]

3) In 1958 I proposed to the Air Force Cambridge Research Center an experiment involving a falling sphere with a stable platform and *XYZ* accelerometers. The experiment is now under study at the University of Michigan Willow Run Laboratories, under contract AF19(604)-5205. It appears that good density determination can be expected at altitudes up to 150 km and horizontal wind determination, at altitudes up to 120 km. Vertical winds can be estimated.

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I would like to express my appreciation to Joseph Otterman for his interest in my article and for his amendments to it. It is regrettable that these recent references, although available to me, escaped my attention. The purpose of my article was to call attention to material scattered through the literature. I hope other workers in atmospheric physics will share their discoveries through the pages of *Science* as well as through their own specialized periodicals.

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On Selecting "Immortals"

As a teacher of the history of science, I should like to be instructed by some of your readers. In a recent issue of *Science* [**130**, 150 (17 July 1959)], a news item lists the 25 "Immortals of Science" whose names will be carved in the walls of the new science building at the University of Bridgeport. I am not interested in the game of fighting for favorite names, but I should like to ask whether anyone can explain how the electors managed to include the name of Leonardo da Vinci—to be judged a genius, yes, but hardly a scientist, especially on the basis of the criteria set up by the university. In spite of the airplanes and studies of fluid flow, Leonardo did not (i) make "a fundamental discovery regarding the laws of nature," nor was he (ii) "responsible for an invention not based on a previously known fundamental law of nature."

Is this an example of the blind following of tradition? In case there are those who require annotations, let me refer them to the works of Leonardo himself, and to comments by Randall, Duhem, and Sarton.

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Tax Deduction

In a recent issue [*Science* **130**, 86 (1959)], in discussion of a congressional bill to stimulate private philanthropy, mention is made of an 80-cent dollar for a person with a taxable income of $5000. This is only the case, though, if the itemized income-tax form is used. For those of us who take a straight 10-percent deduction, a dollar given away consists of 100 cents, with no tax rebate of 20 cents or even 9 cents.

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Science Writing

The editors of *Science* and J. Allen Hynek are to be congratulated for the report "Occultation of the Bright Star Regulus by Venus" [*Science* **130**, 707 (18 Sept. 1959)]. To paraphrase Hynek's dramatic opening paragraph: In this age it is no longer often that we are given the opportunity to read so beautifully written and so personalized an account of a scientific observation.

As recently as 25 years ago it was not uncommon for an article in a scientific journal to reflect its author's individuality. Hynek's refreshing style may remind us that the literature antedating our present age of self-imposed and editor-imposed conformity is rich with like examples. Perhaps stylistic excellence might some day be revived if we directed our students more insistently to the finest examples in the "classic" literature of our respective fields.

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