nerves of both birds were intact and that the olfactory nerves had been severed (S. J. Cobb, personal communication). This study, as was the case with the one reported earlier, presents evidence that can lead us to no conclusion other than that pigeons are capable of smelling isooctane.

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Airglow Cells

In the interest of historical accuracy I feel obliged to make a brief comment in connection with the letter by David M. Gates [*Science* **131**, 266 (29 Jan. 1960)] in which he criticized certain aspects of the article by R. C. Staley on high-altitude observation techniques [*Science* **130**, 845 (2 Oct. 1959)]. Gates writes: "F. E. Roach . . . was responsible for the exciting discovery that the diffuse light from the upper atmosphere appears in large patches in the night sky, called 'airglow cells' . . .," and he attributes this discovery to an article by Roach, Tandberg-Hanssen, and Megill, which was published in 1958.

In reality, the existence of large luminous patches in the night sky was known at least 20 years earlier. In the director's report of the Yerkes and McDonald Observations for 1938–39 [*Publ. Am. Astron. Soc.* **9**, 306 (1939)], I wrote: "Elvey found on several nights large luminous areas in the sky, usually near the horizon and often in the south, southwest and southeast." As far as I know, C. T. Elvey never claimed to have "discovered" this phenomenon, but he observed the luminous patches intensively at McDonald Observatory, both by means of photoelectric photometers and by means of a large nebular spectrograph. He made numerous trips to various neighboring locations in order to secure simultaneous observations at pairs of stations, separated by some tens of miles, and he frequently discussed with me the apparently irregular motions of the patches across the sky. He published some of his results in the *Astrophysical Journal* [**97**, 65 (1943)].

None of this detracts in any way from the importance of Roach's more recent work. He, too, was a highly valued member of the Yerkes-McDonald staff, and he was associated with Elvey in some of the earlier stages of work on the night sky at McDonald Observatory.

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