

WORTHINGTON LIPOXIDASE

is derived from soybean and purified by a modification of Kies' method.

Muset, et al, writing in *The Lancet*, July 2, 1960, reported a definite hypotensive effect when lipoxidase was injected into dogs and cats. They postulate that this may be the result of inhibition of hypertensin.

WORTHINGTON PAPAIN

is 2X crystallized according to the method of Kimmel and Smith.

WORTHINGTON MANUAL #11

is now available. It contains descriptions of the above as well as of other enzymes offered by the Worthington Biochemical Corporation. Extensive bibliographies are included. If you have not received your copy, please write.



**WORTHINGTON
BIOCHEMICAL
CORPORATION**

FREEHOLD 1, NEW JERSEY

I should not like to enter into a controversy over the proper name for the enzyme (actually I do not like very much the ones thus far used) and certainly not with Bernheim. If I had not regarded him with affection I should probably not have recalled the possible relation between our studies (in pyridine metabolism) and his discovery of hydantoinase (hydantoin peptidase). His comment relating political and metabolic status and enzyme nomenclature reminds me of an anecdote I heard when a child. A political appointee, when asked who had won the election, said: "It is a funny thing, we thought we Republicans were going to win, but instead we Democrats won!" (of course, since I was in Spain at the time, I have used some latitude in identifying the political parties).

SANTIAGO GRISOLIA

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The Issue of Fluoridation

Local referenda in the first week of March 1961 administered serious defeats to those who have been in favor of the fluoridation of water supplies in Massachusetts. The proposal was voted down two to one in Wellesley and by a smaller margin in Brookline, and discontinuation was voted in Andover.

It is extremely difficult to understand the trend of voting on this issue in towns of the highest socioeconomic and educational levels at a time when the prestige of science, at least with respect to its capacity for achieving its objectives, is higher than ever before. It seems to me that this issue exemplifies the contemporary confrontation of science and antiscience, because of the overwhelming weight of scientific authority on the pro side—such as that of the official associations of the dental profession and the public health authorities at all governmental levels. If this evaluation of the issue is valid, one must draw the conclusion that communication between the scientific community and the public is still in a highly unsatisfactory state and that it should be a matter of continuing concern to the AAAS. This aspect of the situation may transcend in importance the lost potential for improvement in dental health.

Discontinuance of the fluoridation program in Andover after 5 years may provide the basis for another field study for interested investigators. But of even greater interest would be results of a competent sociological study to uncover the basic reasons for the astounding successes of the small, fanatical groups that have been organized to oppose the scientific experts. This

issue may, in a sense, serve as a measure of the effectiveness of the AAAS with respect to one of its prime objectives—communication with the public at large.

LEO LEVINE

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Government and Education

A recent editorial [*Science* 133, 1043 (7 Apr. 1961)] confirms the need for truly liberal members of the AAAS to make themselves heard. I resigned from the AAAS in protest over the brave new social stand promulgated by the Association under the guise of "Science in the News." Now in this editorial, the Association has come out forthrightly for federal interference in local education.

The worth-whileness of integration should not blind anyone to the danger of encouraging Congress to contribute money conditionally to education. The conditions will multiply with time, to conform to every demagogic prejudice of any group wielding sufficient votes. I hope the editors of *Science* are prepared to convince Congress that somewhere between Negroes, Jews, Catholics, Nordics, Birchists, Irish, Baptists, Communists, Fundamentalists, Pragmatists, Conscientious Objectors, Beatniks, and Snuff-takers there is a fine line that makes federal interference right or wrong. If Congress is not convinced, the new loyalty oaths will be a multiple-choice form several pages in length.

IVOR CORNMAN

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We wish to point out that what appears in Science, either in editorials, in the news section, among the articles, or elsewhere, cannot in all fairness be called a "social stand promulgated by the Association."—ED.

Reprints of Snow Address

C. P. Snow's significant address before the AAAS in December, "The moral un-neutrality of science" [*Science* 133, 245 (27 Jan. 1961)] has been reprinted in pamphlet form by the Peace Education Program of the American Friends Service Committee.

We would like to let your readers know that the pamphlet is available at 10 cents a copy from Peace Literature Service, American Friends Service Committee, 160 North 15 St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

ADELE RICKETT

American Friends Service Committee,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania