of, and imply professional incompetence on the part of, a physiologist in the highly specialized field of cancer research is ludicrous, to say the least.

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According to American Men of Science, *Stoddard is a former head of the department of psychology at the University of Iowa. In recent years he has held administrative posts, and he is now chancellor of New York University.*—ED.

Mathematics Degrees

I noted with interest the editorial on the proposed Doctor of Arts degree for noncreative mathematicians [*Science* **133**, 1979 (1961)]. I commend you for publishing it.

I would urge, however, that it may be equally productive to consider a more restricted designation than the current Ph.D. for programs which stress the creative aspects of a discipline more than a scholarly treatment of its substance, structure, and relation to other fields of knowledge. For the former group, the Doctor of Mathematics might be appropriate.

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Communication between Social and Physical Scientists

In the 12th to 14th paragraphs of the New York *Times* obituary of the Soviet physicist Kurchatov (8 February 1960), the following sentences appeared (p. 4).

"One of Dr. Kurchatov's most significant public statements came in early 1958 when he publicly asserted that it was the Soviet Union, not the United States, that invented the hydrogen bomb. . . .

"That the Academician's claim may be correct has been indicated by evidence published in this country that the Soviet 1953 thermonuclear explosion was accomplished with the use of a form of lithium deuteride as a solid. This evidence suggests that the November, 1952, American thermonuclear device had to be very bulky because it contained much refrigeration apparatus

needed to keep the heavy hydrogen employed in liquid form. Not until March, 1954, a half year after the Russian explosion, the evidence suggests, did the United States explode a real hydrogen bomb utilizing lithium deuteride."

If it was news that the Russians had the first hydrogen bomb and that there was a period of 6 months in which a hydrogen-bomb gap existed, then, as the following comments suggest, the news was—and remains—quite well hidden.

An informal survey was conducted among social and physical scientists in the Cambridge, Massachusetts, area. Quite universally social scientists had not previously known that there had been an apparent 6-month hydrogen-bomb gap in Russia's favor, and what is more, although they professed to having read the *Times* story, they (again quite universally) had not appreciated what was being reported. Some of these persons, it might be noted, teach and write about international (and particularly military) policy.

Physical scientists, on the other hand, did not see the matter as news. Quite universally they had "here or there" picked up the information given in the story, and, what is more, they expressed surprise that it was, in some quarters, news.

At least two points are worthy of further consideration. First, the story, which if news was surely one of the most important stories of the postwar period, was not picked up, given headline status, or made any sort of national issue by those (congressmen, commentators, and so on) who make national issues. Indeed, when more recently Khrushchev repeated the assertion, reports of his speech indicated not that he was apparently correct but that this was a typical Soviet claim. Second, if social scientists are to concern themselves with offering advice and evaluating national policies, then some means must be found by which they are given at least that information which the community of physical scientists has acquired.

Suggestions for the regular transmission of such information certainly seem in order.

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