

## Letters

### Proposed Center for Retired Scientists

From time to time some reader of *Science* calls attention to the problems faced by scientists who are contemplating retirement. Yet no one seems to come up with concrete suggestions. As I see it, the basic needs are the following: (i) a climate free from the extremes of both heat and cold; (ii) an altitude which places no undue strain upon the heart; (iii) adequate medical facilities; (iv) a location not forbiddingly remote from previous habitat and associations; (v) living costs commensurate with retirement income, without appreciable sacrifice of the accustomed standard of living; and (vi) a modicum of congenial social life.

Thousands of listings in the currently popular guides to retirement spots go a long way toward satisfying items (i) to (v), but relatively few would satisfy (vi) in terms acceptable to the scientist or scholar. I should like to call attention to a location in Mexico which abundantly satisfies the former and *could*, with a little cooperative effort, readily solve the problem posed by the latter.

The city of Jalapa, capital of the state of Vera Cruz (population some 20,000), has a climate as benign as that of Cuernavaca. It is surrounded by such giant mountains as El Perote (13,500 feet) and Orizaba (18,225 feet). The scenery is majestic. Tropical fruits and flowers abound. There are excellent highways to the Gulf (an hour or so away) and to Mexico City (4 to 5 hours). Short trips bring one to intriguing archeological sites and to some of the most colorful Indian groups in the republic.

The city is the site of the state university, the Universidad Veracruzana, second largest in the country, a very dynamic institution whose growth is being fostered in part by the central government in its efforts to decentralize education in Mexico and relieve con-

gested conditions in the capital. It boasts a new, ultramodern museum of anthropology and a department of anthropology which, in range of course offerings and competence of staff, compares favorably with similar departments in the foremost American universities. A "university city" is planned.

I have discussed with members of the anthropology department, who, in turn, have consulted the higher officials of the university, a plan to establish on the outskirts of Jalapa a residential center for retired scientists and scholars, to be known as the Manuel Gamio Center, in memory of the late Dr. Manuel Gamio, one-time student and collaborator of Franz Boas. Gamio, virtual founder of the indigenist movement and for years director of the Instituto Internacional Indigenista, was regarded as dean of Mexican anthropologists.

The plan envisages a nuclear colony of about 25 cottages and a central building, each cottage to consist of an ample living room, two bedrooms, bath, and kitchenette, plus a screened patio or terrace. The central building would house a restaurant, a lounge, a library (made up of the pooled professional libraries of the colonists), perhaps a laundry and a barber shop, and certainly a recreation hall adaptable for seminars, lectures, concerts, movies, and so on. The grounds would be attractively landscaped and would include parking facilities, a swimming pool, and possibly tennis courts.

The center would maintain a loose affiliation with the university, the residents being invited to participate in seminars and to avail themselves of its research facilities. They would thus stimulate and be stimulated by their Mexican counterparts. Interest should, I think, be diversified. The area is one which should appeal strongly to geologists, ornithologists, herpetologists, botanists, and old-fashioned naturalists, not to mention specialists in every branch of anthropology and a sprink-

ling of sociologists, historians, hispanists—perhaps even artists and musicians.

University officials already have their eyes on suitable terrain and have invited me to make an inspection and to consult with state government personnel (engineers, architects, lawyers, and so on) regarding details. For at least another year, pending a possible change in state politics, it will be possible to obtain the services of such specialists at minimum cost.

I am eager to enter into correspondence with at least 25 scientists for whom the project may have some appeal. I cannot at this time say exactly what the cost would be for participants but am firmly convinced that building costs, maintenance, and living expenses would hardly exceed half the expense of a similar venture in the United States. The precise incorporated form of the enterprise would be governed, I presume, by such factors as whether some benefactor could be found to underwrite the initial investment, whether this should be undertaken by "developers," or whether the participants themselves would provide the funds, with some responsible financial institution acting as trustee.

I would emphasize that I do not have in mind anything like a "home for the aged." The scheme would be quite devoid of regimentation. Family privacy and personal inclinations would get first consideration, and each participant would retain title to his individual financial equity in the center. The possibilities can be explored only after assurance that a sufficient number of people are interested.

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### Culture and Race

With reference to Howard Margolis's assumption concerning "a dilemma for the anthropologist [*Science* **134**, 1868 (8 Dec. 1961)], I wish to make the following points.

1) So far as I am aware, no current fellow of the American Anthropological Association has ever expressed the view, verbally or in print, that "racial" differences are functionally correlated with cultural behavior. The diffusion and development of culture have occurred without relevance to "racially" defined groups, no matter what criteria are