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A Two-Way Affair

Edmund W. Sinnott [*Science* **135**, 278 (26 Jan. 1962)] assumes that such letters as he suggests [to individuals in the U.S.S.R.] would reach the person addressed. I have serious doubts about that. I know from experience that letters from the United States are not exactly welcomed behind the iron curtain. This includes letters to relatives.

The spread of good will must be a two-way effort to have any value. I wonder if Sinnott can show us a letter, similar in content to his, published in a leading journal of science of the U.S.S.R.

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As Eisenman points out, good will is a two-way affair, but this does not mean that we should wait for someone on the other side to make the first overture. There is a wide interchange of friendly correspondence between American and Soviet scientists, and my suggestion simply is that in connection with this, or as an extension of it, there be more formally expressed the desire for sincere good will between our peoples.

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Science Curriculum in Argentina

Garrett Hardin's review entitled "The 'two cultures' within biology" [*Science* **134**, 548 (1961)] has somewhat belatedly come to my attention.

With reference to his query and comment, "What is to be done? Possibly planning within universities can put a brake on the speciation process by requiring physical scientists to take at least one biology course . . . ," I

would like to inform your readers that this same problem has been overcome in the School of [Exact and Natural] Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires. This School, one of the ten comprising the University of Buenos Aires, one of the largest universities of the Latin world (with an enrollment of over 50,000), deals with teaching and research in the basic sciences and includes at present six large departments (physics; inorganic, analytical, and physical chemistry; biological chemistry; meteorology; biology; and geology) plus partnership in the School of Engineering of the Department of Industries.

The impact of science and technology in the development of the huge natural resources of Latin America within an imperatively short period is obvious. The leaders in overhauling methods in the School of Sciences have been aware of this, as well as of the problem raised by Hardin. Hence, *all* students of the School (including, of course, the ever more numerous students of mathematics and physics) are required to take a short but intensive course in biology. One of the arguments for establishing this requirement was that no student of the sciences can utterly ignore one of the main fields of science. Insofar as the "other" sciences are concerned, the curriculum establishes also at least two full semesters of physics and two of chemistry for all students of the School.

Notwithstanding the fact that the overhaul mentioned has been partially based on the university system that has found great favor in the United States, the obligatory courses that I have pointed out give students of all branches a broader view of science *in toto*.

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Statue of Claude Bernard

C. D. Leake [*Science* **134**, 2069 (1961)] was quite right in his statement, which appeared under the excellent photograph of a bronze memorial of the celebrated physiologist Claude Bernard (1813–78), that this statue was melted by Germans who occupied Paris during World War II. It may interest readers to know that in 1946 a new monument, in stone, was erected on the same spot in front of the Collège de France (Fig. 1). Bernard's pose is different in this second statue, although the memorial is approximately of the same size.

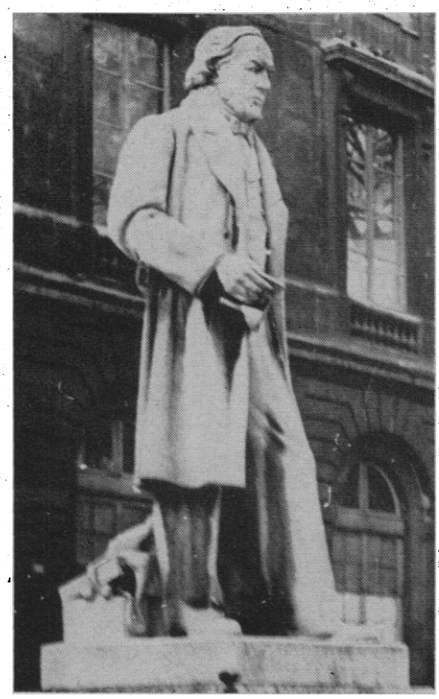

Fig. 1. The new statue of Claude Bernard. [E. Fauré-Fremiet, Collège de France]

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Sparing Action of Folic Acid by Thymidine

The article by Grossowicz and Mandelbaum (*1*) was commented on by Bolinder (*2*). In reply, Grossowicz (*3*) stated that thymidine produced growth in our experiments but not in his system. However, we pointed out (*4*) that our results showed that although thymidine by itself was ineffective in promoting growth, it significantly reduced the requirement of *Leuconostoc citrovorum* for "citrovorum factor."

The current state of biochemical research in folic acid coenzymes has reached a degree of sophistication not discussed or expressed in the article by Grossowicz and Mandelbaum. Studies by Friedkin (*5*) indicate that the thymidylate synthetase reaction includes transfer of the 5,10-CH_2- group and dehydrogenation of 5,10-methylene tetrahydrofolic acid to dihydrofolic acid. The reduction of dihydrofolic acid