nois and Connecticut and the cities of Kalamazoo, Palo Alto, and Duluth last year. Thus, the antivivisectionists might, with the largest flood of mail ever received by Congress, get favorable action on a bill that would encumber research on animals with a tangle of restrictions and red tape.

The author of your report was correct in assessing our present strength. He simply failed to mention that our Achilles' heel is apathy. Congress ultimately will act on the basis of apparent public opinion.

HIRAM E. ESSEX

National Society for Medical Research, Rochester, Minnesota

Adjusting Data

It appears to me, a casual reader with no special competence in the field, that the manipulation of the data in reference *11* of Astin's article " 'Productivity' of undergraduate institutions" [*Science* **136**, 129 (1962)] requires considerable justification.

As I understand the situation, data were available on the I.Q. distribution of recipients of bachelor's and doctor's degrees from which the variation with I.Q. of the probability that a recipient of a bachelor's degree would attain the doctorate could be computed. The original data gave the anomalous result that the probability for students with I.Q.'s in excess of 160 was less than that for students with I.Q.'s between 150 and 160. Astin therefore considered various adjustments of the I.Q. distribution of baccalaureate recipients. Changing the standard deviation of the distribution shifted the anomaly to a different I.Q. range, but lowering the estimate of the average I.Q. resulted in a monotone increase with I.Q. of the probability of obtaining the doctorate.

Now, while it is plausible that the probability should be a monotone increasing function of the I.Q. it is far from being such a self-evident requirement as to warrant the altering of measurements, however crude. It could, for example, be argued that a monotone probability is a characteristic of a rational educational system, and that an anomaly thus indicates an organizational defect. (Of course, one cannot conclude the converse—that if the distribution is monotone the system is rational, or that changes which would make the distribution monotone are necessarily improvements.) From this

point of view, Astin has glossed over an extremely significant result by his treatment of the data.

It is, of course, possible that the data were erroneous, but revision should be made on the basis of a more extensive investigation, not to secure agreement with preconceived ideas of plausibility.

WILLIAM SQUIRE
College of Engineering, West Virginia University, Morgantown

If I correctly understand his comment, Squire feels that changing the estimate of the mean I.Q. score for college graduates from 121 to 115 was not justified merely in order "to secure agreement with preconceived ideas of plausibility." I would be inclined to agree with him if this were the only basis on which I made the change. But my principal authority for this decision was L. R. Harmon [*Science* **133**, 679 (1961)], who found a monotonic function in the general population. I felt that my function should conform to Harmon's, not merely that it should be "plausible." I specifically refer to Harmon's findings in the reference in question (reference *11*).

It might also be added that, in our longitudinal studies of Merit Finalists (who represent these extremely high levels of aptitude) we have never observed such reversals—that is, the relationships between aptitude and the probabilities of entering college, completing college, and entering graduate school have consistently turned out to be positive and monotonic.

ALEXANDER W. ASTIN
National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Evanston, Illinois

Fact and Fashion in Scientific Nomenclature

Needless to say, the debate over biological terminology between Soulides and Buchanan [*Science* **136**, 947 (1962)] is not so much an argument over fact as an argument over fashion.

Generally speaking, 19th-century scholars preferred to latinize scientific terms of Greek origin, while 20th-century scholars prefer to preserve the Hellenic spelling of these terms.

Nonetheless, some peripheral questions of fact raised by the two disputants do merit comment. Though I think Buchanan generally stands on firmer factual ground than does Soulides, Soulides correctly insists that the