

complacency in behavioral science of which Bixenstine speaks. In the special field of the experimental analysis of behavior I do see a new kind of confidence. It springs not from "a release from preoccupation with theory" but from success. Important problems are being attacked and solved. Methods are available which are effective with respect to behavior as a subject matter, but this does not mean that they should be emulated in every other field of science.

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Melman Controversy

The tone of D. S. Greenberg's article on Seymour Melman (News and Comment, 17 Apr., p. 27), as well as that of his reply to Melman's letter (Letters, 17 July, p. 233), seems out of place in your pages. What Greenberg says, what he leaves unsaid, and the phrases he employs all seem to suggest a political argument rather than a presentation of factual material. Contributions of this sort do not seem well designed to add luster to your excellent journal.

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Italy: Science and Politics

The article on research in Italy by V. K. McElheny (14 Aug., p. 690) was of more than casual interest to me, as I spent the period from October 1960 to June 1961 at the Instituto Superiore di Sanità under a Fulbright grant. I worked with G. Gualandi in E. B. Chain's group. Even at that time distinct political interference could be noted in the workings of that research institution. Members of political parties of extreme left and right (especially those affiliated with the Movimento Sociale Italiano) continually alluded to "foreign" elements in the Instituto which should be eliminated. I am sorry that McElheny did not delve further into these political involvements, as I think that the recent unfortunate happenings in Italy are only the legalistic culmination of a long series of parliamentary proceedings, both official and otherwise. Even 3 years ago many

persons warned of what would follow if the situation continued to deteriorate.

I believe that the obvious lesson to be learned—if, indeed, it is not already clear to all—is that partisan politics can only have an insidious influence on the administration of any research organization, large or small. Of the wealth of scientific ability and achievement in Italy both in the past and future I have no doubt; one can only hope that members of the Italian Parliament share this view and will cease the harassment and interference which has resulted in the unhappy and unnecessary events described.

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"Science" ≠ Sciences

I should like to comment on the recent discussion of the science training in a liberal arts curriculum (Letters, 21 Aug., p. 767).

While the average science major of my acquaintance is knowledgeable in humanistic and sociological fields, few nonscience majors are capable of contributing to a conversation in scientific areas. These students generally attempt to fulfill their science requirements by taking the easiest possible courses, "easiest" usually meaning a minimum of lab or problem work and a maximum of studying "science," instead of biology, physics, or chemistry. If these courses do succeed in teaching "science," it is a subject which I believe few scientists would recognize. The quality of teaching of the subjects themselves generally suffers from shared emphasis with the more general topic. In contrast, basic courses which aim primarily at exposing the student to the basic facts, methods, problems, and ideas of a particular scientific discipline give him both currency in that field and experience in "science." To imagine that this experience can be supplanted by formal teaching of the philosophical view is to credit philosophy with a scheme sufficiently well developed and defined to enable the student to "appreciate" science. I personally doubt the existence of such a scheme and question the advisability of teaching any subject by teaching about the study of that subject.

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