Letters

Colony of Hemophilic Dogs

A colony of beagles with classic hemophilia has been established through the cooperative efforts of staff members at Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Oklahoma Medical Center. The colony is housed on the campus of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

All hemophilic animals in the colony have documented clinical and laboratory evidence of factor VIII deficiency, which has been shown to be functionally similar to the disorder in man [*Arch. Pathol.* **76**, 464 (1963)]. Because of the infrequency of episodes of hemarthroses and severe bleeding, the defect in clotting has been postulated to be less severe than that reported in the North Carolina Colony of Brinkhous and his associates [*Trans. Amer. Clin. Climatol. Abstr.*, **75**, 137 (1964)]. This mild form of canine hemophilia permits greater longevity of the animals and facilitates their care during experimental procedures.

The dogs are purebred beagles weighing between 7 and 9 kilograms. They are fed a balanced ration as recommended by the National Research Council. Special efforts are made to keep them parasite-free. All animals are inoculated at 4 months of age and each succeeding sixth month with a triple vaccine (distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis).

A core of ten hemophilic animals and ten genetically predicted transmitter females are maintained in the colony at all times. An optimal breeding program is established to obtain hemophilic animals. Hemophilic bitches are bred to proven hemophilic males to obtain all hemophilic offspring.

The colony is supported by a research resource grant from the National Institutes of Health, HE-09013. Investigators interested in obtaining these animals for basic or applied research are invited to address: Dr. Ralph G. Buckner, Department of Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74075; or Dr. James W. Hampton, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104.

Research applications and further information about the colony will be mailed upon request.

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The Reuss Report

In his account headed "R&D boom: House report sees harm to higher education" (22 Oct., p. 464), Greenberg reports without critical comment a contention of the Reuss subcommittee that the Universities of California (Berkeley) and Michigan and "a number of the other great State universities" are neglecting their undergraduates because " 'No close relationship is discernible' between the volume of federal research funds and objective tests of undergraduate achievement." Apparently, the chief evidence for this argument is the percentage of graduating seniors at various colleges and universities who between 1960 and 1963 were awarded NSF, NDEA, or Woodrow Wilson fellowships for graduate study. ". . . the subcommittee noted that a poor showing was made by undergraduates from many of the universities that are major recipients of federal research funds. Caltech led the list of [good showings], with 20.1 percent of its 1960-1963 baccalaureates winning fellowships, but next came Reed, Haverford, Swarthmore, and Carleton colleges, whose total federal research receipts probably wouldn't pay 1 week's electric bill for a medium-sized accelerator." Greenberg quotes from the subcommittee report a statement by a state-college history professor, that "if Berkeley had produced fellowship winners . . . [at] the enormous rate achieved by Reed College of 72 awards among 600 students, Berkeley would have had 3240 fellowships. . . . instead of the 132 which it actually achieved."

This is specious logic. Persons familiar with characteristics of freshmen entering state universities and the best liberal-arts colleges know that such postgraduate accomplishments as fellowships received and Ph.D. degrees earned can be predicted nearly as well before the freshmen take a single course as they can by considering the characteristics of the beginners and of the institution together. In *Who Goes Where to College?* (Science Research Associates, Chicago, 1965), A. W. Astin reports that "the college actually attended by a student of high ability appears to make only a slight difference in his eventual career choice . . . , persistence in college . . . , and the eventual level of education that he obtains . . . . Those characteristics of an institution that are generally believed to be educational assets—select student body, highly trained faculty, high faculty-student ratio, superior facilities (such as a large library, etc.)—appear to have little impact on the student outcomes that have been studied thus far." The ability and aspirations of the entering freshman seem to be of paramount importance.

How able are the students who enter the institutions cited? According to Austin, the "estimated selectivity" of these institutions is as follows, on a scale where the average accredited 4-year college in the United States has a mean of 50 and the standard deviation of such colleges is 10: Caltech, 81; Swarthmore, 78; Reed, 74; Carleton, 73; Haverford, 72; Berkeley, 67, and Michigan, 66. Only Radcliffe is (by Astin's index) as selective as Caltech, whereas Berkeley is less selective than about 4.5 percent of all colleges in the U.S. Note how closely these scores agree with the ranking according to fellowships in the subcommittee report ($r = .83$); only all-male Haverford is much out of line, exceeding its most selective but coeducational neighbor, Swarthmore.