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Computerized Journal

In their article, "The future of scientific journals" (1 Dec., p. 1153), Brown, Pierce, and Traub describe the journal of the future for which their Mercury service is the model. Their suggestions are timely and their experience with the Mercury system is invaluable. A parallel effort formed the basis for the publication of *Communications in Behavioral Biology*, an information system and primary publisher of scientific reports (8 Sept., p. 1149). *CBB* is a computerized journal and consists of two primary sections: (i) the abstracts and indices and (ii) the original articles. All articles are published as singles, prepunched for insertion in binders provided with the subscription. Articles are preindexed by the Brain Information Service (UCLA), utilizing a hierarchical index having many of the characteristics described by Brown. These are processed and printed at the Johns Hopkins Medical Computing Center and are immediately available (as preprints from xerographic copies). The abstract section of *CBB*, in conjunction with the indices, allows readers to select articles of interest, or they may request that all articles in selected index categories or by selected authors be sent to them, either as preprints or, a month later, in their final form. Articles are obtained with prepaid article-request cards supplied with subscriptions to the index and abstract section or purchased directly from the editorial offices. Libraries will also carry article request cards permitting users to order the article at a cost less than that of reproduction by xerography.

Among the journals that provide *CBB* with prepublication abstracts of accepted articles are: *Journal of Applied Physiology*, *Journal of Neurophysiology*, *American Journal of Physiology*, *Physiological Reviews*, *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology*, *Life Sciences*, *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology*, *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, *Psychosomatic Medicine*, *British Journal of Psychiatry*, and *European Journal of Pharmacology*, plus other independent journals including several published in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and France.

CBB was organized with funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with the techni-

cal assistance of the Academic Press and University Microfilms. Readers will be able to subscribe to categories of information, preprint distribution will be available, magnetic tape and microform editions will be produced, separate article and abstract-index editions can be purchased, and finally, publication lags will be reduced to less than 3 months. A large interdisciplinary review board will provide constructive review of papers in behavioral biology.

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Televised AAAS Symposia

Although my mobility has recently been limited by the arrival of a new baby, my interests have not, and I would like to thank the AAAS, its members, and the participants in its annual meeting for having made so widely available the opportunity to witness some of the proceedings through educational TV. The choice of televised sessions was exceptionally good. The topics were of the broadest general interest; the speakers neither engaged in superficialities—talking down to the television audience—nor resorted to esoteric vocabulary and the discussion of fine points.

One of the most significant achievements was to help refute the notion (still prevalent despite Hiroshima) that scientific progress is a neutral entity, neither good nor evil in itself and laying no ethical burden on the scientist. Frank discussions of the impact of systems analysis and birth control on social and individual well-being, of ethical limits on secret and subsidized research, of privacy invasion by modern technology, and of the conflicting effects of modern agriculture on the life of underdeveloped countries, all showed scientists accepting the responsibility of their discoveries.

The medium is the message: television is a prime example of technological progress as a mixed blessing, and the excellent use the AAAS made of it is a hopeful sign for the future. I hope this fine contribution to public education will be repeated at future meetings.

MARGARET DICKEY WILDE
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