tell that the *à frigore* variety of Bell's palsy results from cold wind blowing on the cheek, sitting at an open window, and the like. Perhaps the Eskimologists will, with further study, be able to tell us if the subject for this mask lived in a drafty igloo.

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The Naiveté of Science

In "Environmental pollution: Scientists go to court" (22 Dec., p. 1552), Carter cites the enthusiasm of Yannacone for the testimony given by scientists: " 'Those guys are virgin witnesses' he says." Carter then summarizes testimony given by Wurster, including the statement: "In New Hanover [presumably he means Hanover] 70 percent or more of the robins died, whereas in Norwich the population of robins actually increased, Wurster said."

The detailed report by Wurster *et al.* [*Ecology* **46**, 488 (1965)] states:

> Since the study areas represent 2¼% of the sprayed part of town, and the May 1 resident population on these areas averaged 12 Robins, the total Hanover Robin population was approximately 500 to 550. Based on a 70% decline in the study areas by June 1, total Robin mortality in Hanover was about 350 to 400 birds.

The virginity extolled by Yannacone as an attribute of scientists would be helpful to those who wish to accept the extrapolation, made by Wurster, based on a sample of 12 robins. Worldly readers, however, might wonder if some of the Hanover robins had flown across the Connecticut River to Norwich, 2 miles away.

Robins fortunately are well equipped to fight off the extinction that has been meted out to them by the pens of conservationists. Roger Tory Peterson [*The Birds* (Time Inc., New York, 1963), p. 85] states:

> What is North America's number one bird? Is it the house sparrow, introduced from England? Almost certainly not; the starling, less restricted to cities and farms, now outnumbers it. The American robin, however, is a more likely candidate than either. Found from coast to coast, it inhabits cities and forests alike and is one of the most abundant birds in the vast, 3,000-mile belt of conifers stretching across Canada to Alaska.

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