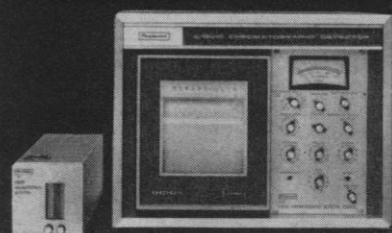


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their molecular structure, and that the so-called "minimum daily requirement" of a vitamin may be far less than the optimum daily amount for some people.

LINUS PAULING

*Department of Chemistry,  
University of California, San Diego,  
P.O. Box 109, La Jolla 92037*

### Small Grants—Great Value

I was very pleased to see Abelson's editorial, "LSD and marihuana" (15 Mar., p. 1189). The citations from *LSD, Man and Society* (1) were further evidence that the symposium and the publication were worthwhile. Yet I wish we could give some recognition to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and specifically to the National Institute of Mental Health Small Grants program which supported the symposium and thereby made the book possible. Such support has great educational value. By continuing support of symposia designed to produce authoritative materials for the nonexpert, HEW can become one of the powerful forces in education in this country.

RICHARD C. DEBOLD

*Hobart College, Geneva, New York*

#### Reference

1. R. C. DeBOLD and R. C. Leaf, Eds. (Wesleyan Univ. Press, Middletown, Conn., 1967).

### Cold Spring Harbor Symposia

Waldo Cohn, of the Biology Division at Oak Ridge, has questioned the value of publishing the Cold Spring Harbor Symposia (Book Reviews, 12 Apr.): "Although the volume has some reference value to the cognoscenti as noted above, the delay and expense of producing it give rise to serious questions as to the value of the effort. . . ." Since I was somewhat involved in the production of the book, I am in a good position to say something about the "delay," "expense," and "effort."

The book was completed and dispatched in 9 months; usually less time is needed, but we struck an extreme vacillator among our contributors (who shall be nameless) and our lenience toward him cost us 2 months. I do not know how this compares with other published symposia. The most recently

published Oak Ridge symposium took longer to come out, as I know because I contributed to it, even though it is much shorter and its organizers are less lenient with contributors than we are. Since we sent a review copy of the symposium to *Science* on 5 May last year, it seems that we produced the book in less time than it took *Science* to publish a review of it.

The "expenses" Cohn mentions are nonexistent. The production costs are covered by the sales, and the exercise of publishing the book receives no subsidy of any kind. Yet, despite its unusually large format, the symposium volume was, per page, among the cheapest books reviewed in the 12 April issue of *Science*.

As to the "effort" involved, this is more for me to worry about than for him or his readers. Any doubts I may have on this score are, however, partly allayed by the first reference given in the longest article in that same issue, which reads: "1. For a comprehensive picture of the extensive work on this subject, see 'The genetic code,' *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 31, entire volume (1966)."

JOHN CAIRNS

*Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory,  
Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724*

### Potential Teachers

The shortage of science teachers (Letters, 9 Feb. and 12 Apr.) cannot be easily met, but one available source might be the number of federal employees who are eligible to retire at age 55 when they have had 30 years service. Many of these, engineers, scientists, and architects, who are contemplating retirement, would welcome the opportunity to teach science and mathematics. But often these potential teachers remain in government work because they cannot arrange to upgrade their training to meet modern requirements.

There must be ways to utilize this pool of untapped teachers. One solution would be to grant sabbaticals to government workers prior to retirement age, so as to enable them to get in-service teacher training and make plans for a smooth transition from government to the classroom.

ALBERT WEINER

*Association of Engineers, Architects,  
and Scientists, Corps of Engineers,  
90 Church Street, New York 10007*