

of the letters (the underlying "g-ness") and the *form* of the letters (the presence of genius)—in other words, a convergence of reason and beauty.

Certainly the more immediate communication problems in our own society take precedence, but if we hope to save future civilizations some of the ambiguity our contemporaries find in ancient language remains, an important part of this concern should be more careful analysis and understanding of what may well be our only link with the distant future—our visible language.

MERALD E. WROLSTAD Journal of Typographic Research, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

First AIBS National Biological Congress

The American Institute of Biological Sciences, at its recent meeting, passed a resolution to hold national biological congresses in 1970, 1971, and 1972. The first will be held in Detroit, 6-10 November 1970, under the chairmanship of William D. McElroy of Johns Hopkins University. The congresses will be concerned with various social, educational, and scientific problems with the morning sessions devoted to interdisciplinary symposia covering the major scientific advances in all areas of biology. National and international leaders in the biomedical sciences will be invited to participate. Afternoon sessions will be devoted to papers by biologists who are active in research in areas ranging from molecular, genetic, and developmental biology to evolutionary, ecological, and environmental sciences. Younger scientists will be invited to contribute original research papers on the subjects covered by the major symposia. The evening session, to be open to the public, will be designed to provide a forum in which the interrelationships of biology, technology, society, and public affairs are considered. National, state, and local leaders will be invited to participate. Among the topics to be considered are water and air pollution, pest control, population pressures, community health, food quality, and the effects of drugs on human development and behavior. Ideas are needed for other topics that might be considered.

Programs of lectures, exhibits, and organized tours will be arranged for



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local high school and college students who are interested in careers in the biomedical sciences.

The National Biological Congress will not supplant the regular AIBS meetings, which will continue to be held on college campuses in late August. The 1969 meeting will be at the University of Vermont, Burlington, 17–22 August, and the 1970 meeting will be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, 23–28 August.

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New Roles for Pharmacology

Maren has presented a case for greater medical school support and recognition for pharmacology departments ("Pharmacology: Its nature in medicine," 2 Aug., p. 443). Perhaps pharmacology can make one of its greatest contributions by helping prepare many health professionals for roles in total health care. It seems unlikely that future health care demands will be filled merely by turning out more health professionals. Even if we could do this, we must find ways of better utilizing those health professionals that we have and will train.

Pharmacy is at last making some strong effort to prepare its young graduates to make a more significant contribution to patient care. The pharmacy student during his 5 (or 6) years of academic training has the greatest exposure to drugs-their use and misuse-of any health professional. The average curriculum well prepares the pharmacy student in the natural sciences and, increasingly, in the biological sciences. A key course prior to his clinical pharmacy experience is pharmacology. It is the fortunate pharmacy school that has the optimal type of pharmacology courses which aid its students in preparing for their roles as "drug-use control" specialists. More and newly designed pharmacology courses are now needed.

Perhaps pharmacologists can find the additional recognition which I believe they deserve if they look beyond their traditional roles in medical schools and determine the needed contributions which they can make to *all* the health sciences (dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine). This will take courage and a realistic look at

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