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Racial Proposal

The proposals of the Association of Black Psychologists to the Council of the American Psychological Association (11 Oct., p. 243) were thought-provoking but in a highly negative sense. It is extremely unfortunate that these psychologists, supposedly experts in human behavior, cannot see any further than the color of their skin. No one denies that there has been and there is much injustice and racism in our country, but to substitute positive discrimination for negative is no solution. Only when we assess individuals on the basis of relevant characteristics, rather than skin color, will we begin to solve our racial problems. To demand proportional representation of Blacks in the APA or graduate schools is as ludicrous as if Italians, Norwegians, Holy Rollers, people with strabismus, or any other "minority" were to demand proportional representation.

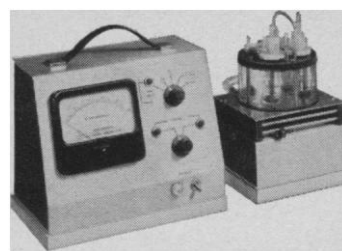
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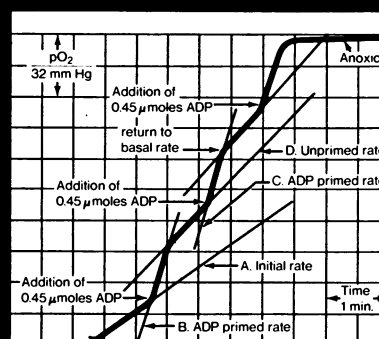
Stringent Drug Regulations

The discovery by Lowinger (Letters, 16 Aug.) that only 10 of 26 reports on new drug studies which he submitted to 19 drug houses had subsequently been received by the Food and Drug Administration would indeed be cause for alarm if taken at face value. It should be noted, however, that the present stringent regulations concerning investigational drugs first became effective in May 1963. Prior to that time, there was no requirement that manufacturers even *notify* the FDA when investigations of new drugs were initiated in man, and the data or "toxicity reports" from such investigations were submitted to the FDA only when and if New Drug Applications (NDA's) were filed. While Lowinger is correct in stating that the 1938 law required filing of all safety data by the manufacturer "... before the drug can be marketed," thousands of compounds were investigated before 1963 and abandoned for a variety of reasons without NDA's being filed. There never was any requirement that toxicity data on such drugs be submitted to the FDA.

Furthermore, prior to 1963, there



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