It is not surprising that there may be more sagebrush in some situations after spraying. The control programs are not intended to kill all the sagebrush and its recovery and, indeed, its spread will depend much on subsequent range management. I doubt that the increase in sagebrush can be attributed to the spray program.

KEITH C. BARRONS

Dow Chemical Company, Post Office Box 1706, Midland, Michigan 48640

References

1. G. E. Lynn and K. C. Barrons, *Proc. Northeast. Weed Control Conf.* (Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J., 1952), p. 331.
2. J. M. Sund and M. J. Wright, *Down to Earth* (Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich., summer, 1959).

Less Materialism—More Tradition

Abelson's editorial "Microcosms in a world apart" (29 Aug., p. 853) states that "we are not getting our money's worth, and it is time that constructive thought and effort were devoted to making it possible for the majority of our citizens to enjoy what could be achieved in the way of spirit-building recreational facilities." Such a goal could be achieved in the next generation if we, the present generation, became less materialistic and acquired the Old World's veneration for and teaching of tradition—quite opposite to our habits of permissiveness.

I was born and brought up just around the corner from Frankfurt's Palmengarten and I appreciated Abelson's comments on its skilled landscaping and grassy glades. However, I also recall how sad I was when all that beauty disappeared temporarily during World War I to make room for growing potatoes!

STEFAN ANSBACHER

Post Office Box 867, Marion, Indiana 46952

Botanical Congress

The U.S. National Committee of the XIth International Botanical Congress, held at Seattle, Washington, from 24 August to 2 September, passed the following two resolutions which should be of interest to readers of *Science*:

In spite of the progress which has been made in maintaining food resources to keep up with the world's increasing population, the members of the XI Interna-

tional Botanical Congress, conscious of their responsibility as biologists, consider that there is no solution to the final problem unless population control is achieved. Therefore, we urge governments to adopt such policies while at the same time ensuring an adequate standard of living for their people, particularly by encouraging increased food production commensurate with proper land use.

The XIth International Botanical Congress, recognizing the importance of preserving every aspect of the diversity and resources of the earth's biosphere, requests the governments of the countries of the world, the inter-governmental organizations of the United Nations family, particularly those involved in technical assistance projects intended to promote scientific, cultural and economic development, other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in conservation matters, universities and other institutions of learning and research, and any other group or individual interested in conservation, to do all in their power to encourage every effort to preserve the earth's biosphere from the manifold destructive influences of man, including the release of persistent toxic materials. We urge support of the conservation projects embodied in the International Biological Program and within the ambit of the International Council of Scientific Unions and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

HERBERT G. BAKER
Botanical Garden,
University of California, Berkeley 94720

Astronaut's Resignation

The news note "Trouble at NASA: Space scientists resign" (22 Aug., p. 776) refers to a comment made by NASA officials that I resigned from the scientist-astronaut program because I didn't want to become a pilot.

This is an oversimplification. The budgetary delays in plans for scientific space flights and the inability to carry on a reasonable amount of scientific research in the meantime were equally important reasons. I discussed all these reasons in the statement of resignation which I submitted to NASA for public release. "Flying just isn't my cup of tea" was quoted in the NASA official announcement from a telephone conversation with Deke Slayton and not even included in my statement.

This is one of those unfortunate cases in which news is distorted because only a small portion is taken out of context for simplicity and readability. . . .

BRIAN O'LEARY
Department of Astronomy and Space Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850