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THE CHEMICAL RUBBER CO.

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It has been my experience that the meetings held on college and university campuses could not have been finer! To construct a "scientific center" of the sort Hoffman suggests, whether in the geographical heart of the country or elsewhere, would seem a tragic error in the direction of more and greater bureaucracy and the further sterilization of science-all at vast public expense. Moreover, we would lose the advantage of visiting many different educational centers where we taste the flavor of discovery and meet the men who are "discovering"-and who enjoy greeting us on their own home grounds.

GEORGE AVERY

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York 11225

Mistaken Identity

In my review of Günther Buttmann's biography of John Herschel (8 May, p. 731) I wrote "three out of four people who have heard of 'Herschel' at all will assume that you have confused the name of his father, William Herschel, and the fourth is himself not clear about the difference."

Your editor kindly added to my review two pictures of "the 40-foot telescope in John Herschel's garden at Slough." It is, of course, William Herschel's famous telescope, sitting in the garden after his death.

Thus we see that, contrary to the oft-repeated maxim, historical knowledge can be used for prediction. In experienced hands it is as accurate as meteorology-maybe more so.

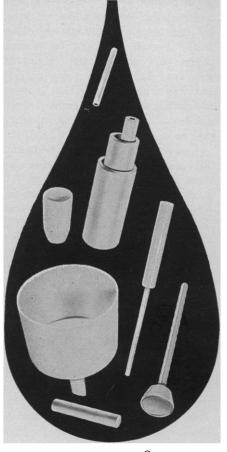
WALTER F. CANNON Division of Physical Sciences, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

Weather Program: Plea for Candor

"Weather services: Working toward worldwide forecasts" (17 Apr., p. 352) is accurate, but the omissions are probably more important than the report. There is no indication of the budgets for this international cooperation and how they are shared and managed. The World Meteorological Organization has a budget of slightly over \$3 million per year, most of which pays for the staff in Geneva and overhead. Therefore, these international programs are large-

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