

mate news at medical meetings by creating a feeling of fear among some investigators that their full papers may not receive formal publication if they cooperate with medical news reporters. The *Journal's* proposals are unworthy of the principles of medical communication that the *Journal* itself, we are sure, espouses with us."

It seems odd—nay, anachronistic—in a time when professional and public support is desperately sought for science by investigators, teachers, editors, and students to avert budgetary disaster—to find restriction of news being advocated in the ranks of the defenders. Since Ingelfinger concedes in his *Science* article that his own journal must wait 2 to 6 months to publish what papers it does select, it should be emphasized that medical journalism has done yeoman service in shortening the time it takes to convey news highlights (virtually never the "complete conceptual and documental form" feared by Ingelfinger) from a scientific meeting, laboratory, or school to the practitioner in the field.

I am sure there will be others—professional science writers and editors in particular—who wish to examine Ingelfinger's premises and conclusions with great care. If there is a problem, it does not lie in his imagined competition but rather in the need for regular and comprehensive study of the critical requirements of communicating scientific information to the professions and the public.

FREDERICK SILBER

Medical Tribune,
110 East 59 Street, New York 10022

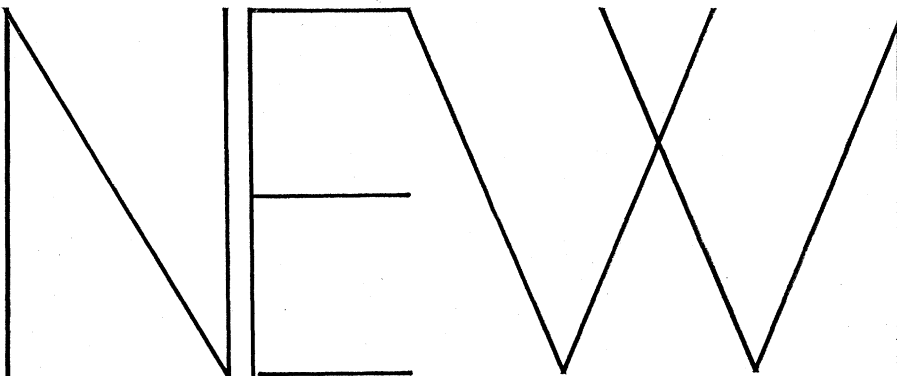
No Wrangle

May I set the record straight with reference to an allegation [attributed to E. G. Sherburne, Jr., director of Science Service] in Boffey's article (18 Sept., p. 1182)? Marcia Nelson was not "fired . . . at least partly because her job had largely been taken over by a computerized subscription service." I was, in fact, not fired at all, but resigned, partly for the reason stated, and partly because of a completely amicable agreement between Sherburne and me to disagree about some aspects of my job. No wrangle was involved in this action.

MARCIA NELSON

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McLean, Virginia

23 OCTOBER 1970



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