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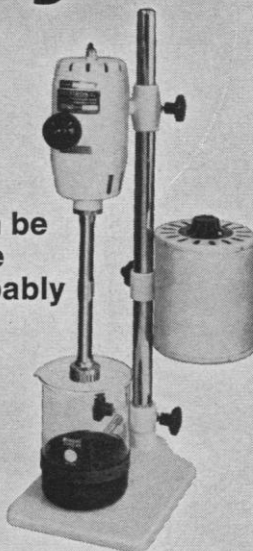
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the kind of incident that reinforces the image of science as a self-serving club rather than an open democratic enterprise.

Science, the magazine, will suffer from the loss of Daniel Greenberg, who is to be commended for his integrity. But that loss is small compared to the damage done to science, the enterprise.

EDWIN B. PARKER

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I note the departure of Daniel Greenberg from the news staff of *Science* with great regret. If some of his reporting has been flavored with vinegar, it has also been composed with knowledge, insight, and humor. His work has reflected both the widening interests of the scientific community to matters beyond the laboratory and helped to develop a sense of this community among scientists. Almost entirely because of Greenberg and his staff *Science* has become an exciting forum for the profession of science.

LAWRENCE BADASH

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Isn't it about time that all the members of the AAAS participate in the election of "their" president?

ALEXANDER STRASSER

(Nonvoting member since 1943)
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In spite of the excellence of *Science* magazine, I have repeatedly refused invitations to join the AAAS because of the denial to members of the right to elect the officers of the Association. Can anyone explain why 100,000 scientists—all of whom would be furious if forbidden the right to vote for candidates for public office—are so meekly willing to surrender this basic privilege to a 530-man presidium?

LAWRENCE SLIFKIN

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Degrees Celsius—Never Centigrade

It is commendable that *Science* published "Metric system: Status of adoption by the United States" (18 Dec., p. 1337). The subject merits the concern

not only of the scientific community but also the general public. However, the statement: "Some doctors record patients' . . . temperatures in degrees centigrade" is undoubtedly factual, but the physician should be encouraged to use degrees Celsius (°C) since the temperature unit "degree centigrade" no longer exists (1). It will be helpful if editors would assist in deleting "degrees centigrade" from the literature so that, at some time in the future, degrees Celsius will be a natural expression.

H. H. PLUMB

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Basic Standards, National Bureau of
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Reference

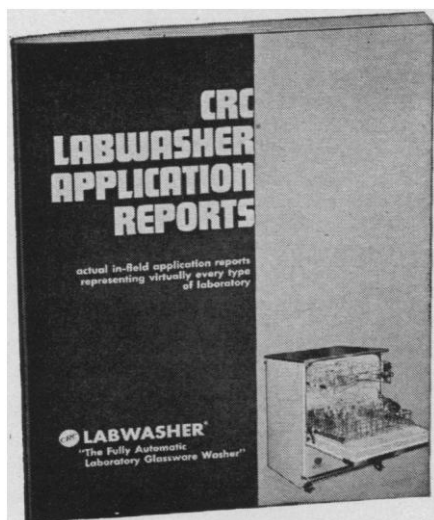
1. *Comptes Rendus de la Neuvième Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures* (Librairie-Imprimerie Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 1949), p. 64.

Rescue Plan for Indian Monkeys

Southwick *et al.* ("Primate populations and biomedical research," 4 Dec., p. 1051) have highlighted the serious shortages of several primate species and suggested that at some point even the relatively abundant rhesus may not be in adequate supply to meet the biomedical demand. It seems clear that current harvesting practices in India depend upon social, economic, and ecological factors that are likely to undergo marked changes in the next several decades. We should like to suggest the outlines of a program that might slow or stop the decline of animals and at the same time increase the scientific value of the individual animal.

The central point is that farmers and villagers must be given an economic stake in the monkey trade in their area. The animals surrounding a village and its agricultural supply should be treated as a natural resource belonging to the village; harvesting of that resource should bring financial gain to the village. This feature of the program will be necessary if villagers are to achieve a proper attitude toward monkeys and their harvesting, one that is positively balanced between veneration (stemming from the doctrine of *ahimsa* and the theology surrounding the monkey god Hanuman) and hostility (stemming from the damage monkeys do to crops and structures). Farmers and villagers must come to view the animals as a natural product of their region which, with proper management, can increase the wealth of the community. We will give

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two examples of ways in which this attitude might be fostered.

First, farmers whose crops are raided by monkeys should be directly compensated for their losses. Thus an individual farmer might choose to plant specifically for monkey consumption and expect to receive fair market value for the food the monkeys eat.

Second, villages should be encouraged and helped to build and maintain large monkey corrals in which known populations could be maintained. Training should be provided to keep simple records of births and deaths within the corrals. Animals harvested from these corrals could bring a premium price because of known parentage, age, and, perhaps in the long run, disease history.

Similar examples could be provided without difficulty. The exact form that commercialized monkey farming would take depends in some measure upon the methods by which the program were financed and administered. Here there are a number of options, including multilateral governmental programs (the United Nations), bilateral governmental programs (between the United States and Indian governments), and programs involving existing or newly developed private Indian enterprise operating under contract to major monkey users (for example, the National Institutes of Health). In our opinion this last approach would be the most economic of time and money. But in any case the criterion for success will be involvement of those people who are closest to the sources of supply. Providing these farmers and villagers with valid incentives for participation in a sound harvesting program would allow the development of a mutually beneficial arrangement between their economic needs and the maintenance of monkey populations. This is the positive balance that will bring success.

GORDON BERMANT
S. CHANDRASEKHAR

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Polemic in the Political Arena

Many scientists and officers of science-oriented organizations have been expressing alarm at the growing disenchantment of the public with science and the support of science research with public funds. May much of this be our own fault?

peak performance

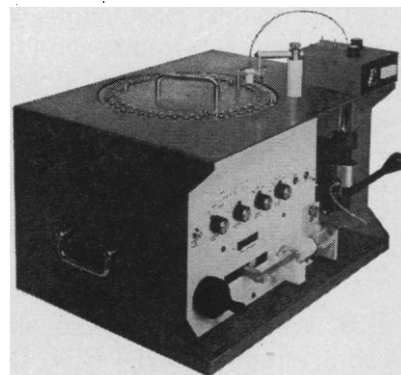
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