

awards. When we moved into our three-story laboratory, we inherited a modern communications system—a pull cord attached to a bell which could be heard at all three levels. We now use it for ingenious approaches to the solution of problems, and, as yet, no one has achieved the ultimate—the five-bell award. However, when an original stupidity is perpetrated, we issue the no-bell award.

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## Knowledge Factory

The following excerpt from Sinclair Lewis's novel *Arrowsmith* (1) is an interesting addition to Harold L. Enarson's editorial "University or knowledge factory?" (7 Sept., p. 897).

The University of Winnemac is at Mohalis, fifteen miles from Zenith. There are twelve thousand students; beside this prodigy Oxford is a tiny theological school and Harvard a select college for young gentlemen. The University has a baseball field under glass; its buildings are measured by the mile; it hires hundreds

of young Doctors of Philosophy to give rapid instruction in Sanskrit, navigation, accountancy, spectacle-fitting, sanitary engineering, Provençal poetry, tariff schedules, rutabaga-growing, motor-car designing, the history of Voronezh, the style of Matthew Arnold, the diagnosis of myohypertrophica kymoparalytica, and department-store advertising. Its president is the best moneyraiser and the best after-dinner speaker in the United States; and Winnemac was the first school in the world to conduct its extension courses by radio.

It is not a snobbish rich-man's college, devoted to leisurely nonsense. It is the property of the people of the state, and what they want—or what they are told they want—is a mill to turn out men and women who will lead moral lives, play bridge, mention books, though they are not expected to have time to read them. It is a Ford Motor Factory, and if its products rattle, they are beautifully standardized, with perfectly interchangeable parts. Hourly the University of Winnemac grows in numbers and influence, and by 1950 one may expect it to have created an entirely new world-civilization, a civilization larger and brisker and purer.

DEAN TROYER

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## References

1. S. Lewis, *Arrowsmith* (Harcourt Brace, New York, 1949), chap. 2, sect. 1.

## Marital Status and Mobility

Beverley R. Green (Letters, 10 Aug. p. 496) reports that only 5 percent of the applicants for a biochemistry position and 3 percent of the applicants for a botany position at the University of British Columbia were women. She implies that, since between 10 and 20 percent of those receiving Ph.D.'s in these fields are women, women are giving up without trying; that women make up a small proportion of faculty because they do not apply for jobs; and that men cannot be blamed for this.

We analyzed the applications received for five positions in the department of biology at Michigan Technological University as a result of an advertisement in the 2 March issue of *Science*. We found that the percentages of women applicants compared well with the percentages reported by Green. However, our interpretation of these results is quite different from Green's.

In addition to classifying applicants according to sex, we also noted marital status. We found that more than 90 percent of the male applicants were married, while all but one (93 percent) of the female applicants were single.

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