



**From tissue to homogenate in 30 seconds!**

For homogenization, dispersion, defibrillation and emulsification, nothing works quite like a Polytron. Utilizing the Willem's "High Frequency Principle", the Polytron combines ultrasonic energy with mechanical shearing action to homogenize virtually any type of tissue . . . small organs, soft bones, muscle, cartilage, even an entire mouse.

Because of its unique shearing effect, the Polytron outperforms any blender, mixer or similar homogenizer, and requires only 30-60 seconds to do what other instruments do in 15 minutes or more. This rapid action is an important advantage when working with heat-sensitive biological materials.

The Polytron system offers a wide selection of models, generators and speeds to provide ideal conditions for homogenization as dictated by type of material, experimental conditions and desired end result. For an informative brochure, write: Polytron Division, Brinkmann Instruments, Cantiague Road, Westbury, N.Y. 11590. In Canada: 50 Galaxy Boulevard, Rexdale (Toronto), Ont.

**Brinkmann Polytron®**

Circle No. 404 on Readers' Service Card

## LETTERS

### Drug Shortages

The article "Penicillin G: Suddenly a shortage" by Barbara J. Culliton (News and Comment, 19 Mar., p.1157) accurately describes the shortage of intravenous penicillin G which has existed during the past few months. Shortages of other drugs (injectable local anesthetics, vasopressor agents, electrolyte additives, and so forth) have been occurring with increasing frequency during the past year, posing numerous problems, particularly in hospitals.

The American Society of Hospital Pharmacists and the Food and Drug Administration have jointly developed a nationwide Drug Shortage Monitoring Program which will be operational within the next few weeks. This program will enable us to anticipate drug supply problems and will provide information about their extent and expected duration. An important goal of the program is to help eliminate artificial shortages caused by rumor, such as the toilet tissue panic a year or so ago.

MICHAEL H. STOLAR

*American Society of Hospital  
Pharmacists, 4630 Montgomery  
Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20014*

### Big University

The editorial "Big University—Humane or bureaucratic?" by Susan Arandi (19 Mar., p. 1129) is well stated and expresses what many of us have been thinking for some time. At the University of Florida, the change from an academic institution to a huge bureaucracy has occurred slowly, and only over the last several years has the faculty realized with horror what has occurred.

There are seven levels of administration over the professor in our state university system. The upper six levels are occupied by what I would term "professional administrators." That is, they are not associated to any extent with an academic discipline. This has led to cleavage of the academic community into administrators and faculty. The "Big University" should utilize the organization practiced by some of the better private universities: administration positions from department head to president should be filled by election or appointment from the senior faculty on a rotating basis. The highest academic rank in the university should be that of professor.

SCIENCE, VOL. 192