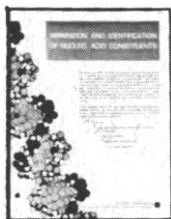


NEW required reading

from Waters — the Liquid
Chromatography People

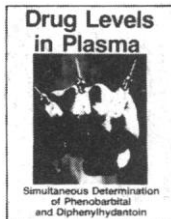
Separation and Identification of Nucleic Acid Constituents



4 pgs. Describes the LC separation of DNA and RNA constituents — purine and pyrimidine bases, nucleosides, and nucleotides.

Circle No. 27 on Readers' Service Card

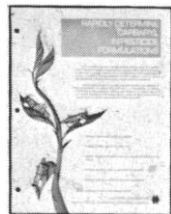
Drug Levels in Plasma



4 pgs. Step-by-step description of the development of an LC method for clinical assay. Comparison of LC and GC assay results.

Circle No. 28 on Readers' Service Card

Rapidly Determine Carbaryl in Pesticide Formulations



This 4-page brochure describes an LC method for the separation and quantitation of carbaryl, both alone and in mixed formulations. LC results are favorably compared with previously used analytical techniques.

Circle No. 29 on Readers' Service Card

free from



201 Maple Street, Milford, Ma 01757
Telephone (617) 478-2000

The Liquid Chromatography People

specialized software and applications programs and the expertise needed to develop, use, and improve them.) The principal issue, however, is money. With today's tight budgets it is often impossible to carry out much large-scale scientific computation at a central facility, even though the computer center can offer software facilities such as RPG, Cobol, PL/I, and centralized billing.

ISAIAH SHAVITT

FRANK TOBIN

Battelle Columbus Laboratories,
Columbus, Ohio 43201

A Neglected Literature

Konrad B. Krauskopf's appeal for information on radioactive waste disposal (Letters, 8 Oct., p. 134) indirectly draws attention to a problem of long-standing and increasing magnitude. Although Krauskopf seeks knowledge of unpublished reports, it is my observation that some *published* reports are not readily available. One of the reasons for this problem is that national and international concern about energy, pollution, and other important scientific issues is generating a voluminous amount of literature in the form of monographs, journal articles, reports, and so forth. Reports tend to be poorly covered by the traditional abstracting and indexing services, which still emphasize coverage of journals. In turn, these services are the bases for the so-called "on-line" computer services. Unless measures are taken to increase the visibility of this literature, its potential value to society may not be realized.

JAMES L. OLSEN, JR.

Library,
National Academy of Sciences—
National Academy of Engineering,
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dating the Deluge

Science has published comments by five geologists (Technical Comments, 24 Sept., p. 1268) criticizing Emiliani's correlation (Reports, 26 Sept. 1975, p. 1083) of a sudden rise in sea level 11,600 years ago with the deluge dated by Plato as having occurred 9000 years before Plato's own work on the subject. The accuracy with which Plato's geochronological studies were carried out is clearly a question of substantial scientific interest.

I assume that Plato's deluge is the same event as that described in the Old Testament. I am therefore in the process

of forming an organization to finance expeditions in search of Noah's Ark, in order that we may get to the heart of this matter with radiocarbon dating. The response to Emiliani's correlation gives me great hope that generous financial backing for the organization can be found within my own profession. I invite the writers of these comments and all others who take their work so seriously to join with me as founding fathers, mothers, and stockholders in a venture guaranteed to return profits and glory as well as a scientific solution to the problem of Plato's flood.

H. CRAIG

Scripps Institution of Oceanography,
University of California, San Diego,
La Jolla, California 92093

Peer Review: Preventing "Nepotism"

In my previous position, I was a scientist at a large midwestern university in a section composed of seven staff members charged with the study of cancer biology. The section is supported by about 50 percent of the funds allocated to a cancer center grant from the National Cancer Institute. The yearly budget of the center is more than \$1 million. During my last year, the center was "site-visited" in order that a request for a 5-year renewal of the grant could be considered. On the site-visit team were four or five members responsible for evaluating the section. Of these, one had been the doctoral thesis adviser of two staff members in the section, and a third staff member had done postdoctoral work with a second member of the site-visit team. I question whether these site-visitors could possibly judge the scientific merit of the work in the section without bias. Some of the projects carried on by the section had actually been spawned in the laboratories of the two site-visitors. One may ask why these site-visitors did not disqualify themselves. Serving on a site-visit team carries considerable prestige; furthermore, academic salaries are frequently barely adequate and consultants' fees are attractive. Obviously, we are all human, and so, too, are potential site-visitors. Criteria should, therefore, be established by the granting agencies to disqualify scientific "fathers, mothers, and other close relatives" from site-visit teams, study sections, and other peer review groups.

HELENE Z. HILL

Department of Biochemistry and Cell
Biology, School of Medicine,
Marshall University,
Huntington, West Virginia 25701