

ing. We are left with the image of science and society, linked arm in arm, marching off to greet the Brave New World under the streaming banner of sociobiology. It just isn't so.

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The Icarus Legend

In his review (12 May, p. 673) of D. A. Reay's *The History of Man-Powered Flight (I)*, Robin Higham states, "Reay conclusively shows that Icarus could not possibly have flown from Crete to the mainland of Greece. Someone needs to reexamine that legend to see what his real objective might have been or whether he might have been under the influence of hallucinogenic drugs." Icarus certainly did not make the flight; he fell into the sea and was killed. Daedalus, father of Icarus, made wings to escape from imprisonment by King Minos and reportedly flew to Sicily, not Greece. Since the distance is approximately 450 miles, he may be suspected of having made the major part of the journey by ship. Hallucinogenic drugs are not the only cause of strange opinions; too much sun may also be harmful.

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Reference

1. D. A. Reay, *The History of Man-Powered Flight* (Pergamon, New York, 1977).

Neuroendocrinology: Pioneering Efforts

In the second of his three articles on Guillemin and Schally, Nicholas Wade (News and Comment, 28 Apr., p. 411) refers to the forthcoming volume 2 of *Pioneers in Neuroendocrinology*, edited by Joseph Meites *et al.* (1). He omits, however, any reference to volume 1 of this publication, which is already available (2). I wish to call volume 1 to the attention of *Science* readers, particularly the chapter on "Neurosecretion and its role in neuroendocrine regulation" by Berta Scharer. There we learn that in 1928—when Guillemin was 4 years old and Schally was 2—Ernst Scharer discovered that certain hypothalamic neurons specialize in secretory activity to a degree comparable to that of endocrine

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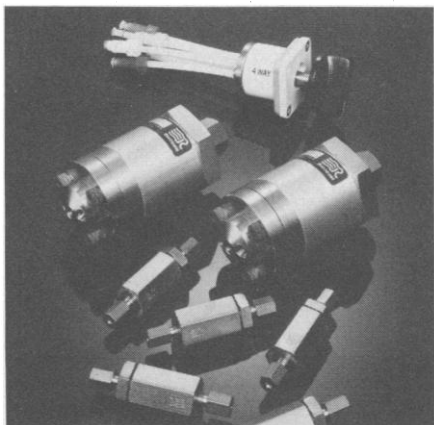


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gland cells; he further suggested that this activity may be related to hypophyseal function. Ever since that time the Scharers, as a husband and wife team, seriously and with deep commitment pursued their research in this field—Ernst until his untimely death in 1965 and Berta to date, as professor of anatomy and neuroscience at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Therefore, I do not agree with Wade's statement that "Geoffrey Harris . . . first seriously urged the idea that the brain must control the pituitary gland. . . ." (News and Comment, 21 Apr., p. 279). That the Scharers deserve more credit for their pioneering efforts than they have received in *Science* thus far is confirmed by the citation accompanying the honorary degree of Doctor of Science that was given to Berta Scharer this year by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The citation includes the statement that the "neuroendocrinologists who won the 1977 Nobel Prize [in Physiology or] Medicine built upon the foundation that the Scharers had laid."

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References

1. J. Meites, B. T. Donovan, S. M. McCann, Eds., *Pioneers in Neuroendocrinology* (Plenum, New York, in press), vol. 2.
2. ———, *Pioneers in Neuroendocrinology* (Plenum, New York, 1975), vol. 1.

Unidentified Abbreviations

In my book review of 4 November 1977 (p. 498), I took the author of the book in question to task for repeatedly using abbreviations which were unlikely to be familiar to many potential readers. I wrote that he, "leave[s] the unfortunate reader to decide what it could possibly mean to 'call an A.G.M.' or 'work for the L.C.C.'"

Within a month after the review appeared I had received 15 letters from colleagues across North America who kindly took the time out of their otherwise pressing duties to provide me with the meaning of those abbreviations. In the process they also provided me with justification for my original criticism. All 15 letter writers informed me that "L.C.C." stands for London County Council. Unfortunately, nine of them thought that "A.G.M." stood for Annual General Meeting, and six thought that it meant Assistant General Manager.

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ENERGY

the debate continues

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