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rized data on more than 100 "men of eminence" and praised Gauss for the richness of his convolutions and sutures. In an outrageous example of nonrandom selection, he arranged a sequence of Gauss, a bushwoman, and a gorilla, and wrote: "The brain of a first-class genius like Friedrich Gauss is as far removed from that of the savage Bushman as that of the latter is removed from the brain of the nearest related ape" (4). Data can always be twisted and misused if expectations are sufficiently powerful. The conviction that black and female inferiority would be located in brain structure led "men of eminence" to know themselves and proclaim their innately higher worth in the face of ambiguous and contrary evidence. Wade cites Gauss's tale in a modern perspective, but the story between Wagner and Wade needs to be told as well, if only to temper current humor with a reminder that the same information can be nonsense or profundity in different social contexts.

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The brief article on Albert Einstein's brain recalled to me the fact that several of the great Swiss and German neuroanatomists in the period between the two World Wars were passionately interested in the study of brains of people of outstanding talent. One publication even carried the unusual title "How shall we study the brains of the elite?" These studies grew out of the discovery during this period that there were differences in the configuration of the cortex on the two sides of the brain and that, in addition, there were marked individual differences in this pattern of asymmetries. Even with this solid scientific basis, however, no firm conclusions could be drawn because the number of brains of distinguished people was too small. In the present state of study of the asymmetries of the brain, it is possible that differences would be found between the people who were highly verbal on the one hand and highly spatial on the other, but it is very doubtful that one could pick out the brains of geniuses.

There is a story, perhaps apocryphal, concerning the brain of another remarkable figure which was removed for study.

One distinguished German anatomist is said to have reported at a medical meeting that the brain of Lenin was exceptional because on microscopic study it was found to have seven layers in the cerebral cortex instead of the usual six. At this point, one of his right-wing colleagues is supposed to have shouted angrily, "Would you consider a baby born with six fingers to be a superior specimen?"

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Alfredics

While William J. Broad's squib (*News and Comment*, 29 Sept., p. 1195) on my predictions of the 1978 Nobel Prize winners (in *Omni*, October 1978) is accurate in every other respect, he errs by suggesting that my method includes "hocus-pocus." No magic whatsoever was involved. Indeed, the predictions were derived from the 17 quantifidamnations which undergird low energy alfredics, alfred being the first name of the Nobel Prize. Alfredics of any energy level is a social science and, as you well know, there is no magic in a social science. Unfortunately, the entire 17-part formula upon which the predictions were based—plus the original title of the paper, "How to bet the Nobel Prize"—were snipped away by referees to discourage unwholesome elements from setting up in Stockholm. In the event that my prognostications are reasonably correct—I would consider one winner out of ten candidates to be reasonable—I will prepare a second paper outlining the complete system. It is my belief that the only way to democratize the secretive and elite Nobel operation is to make it possible for every fool to make money out of it.

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Eavesdropping on Galactic Civilizations

The possibility (1) that our present radio technology could be used to eavesdrop on the internal radio communications of a civilization on a planet of a nearby star has been known for some time; it is accordingly instructive to see just how the earth's television and radar transmissions might be viewed over the