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SCIENCE is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Second-class postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, D.C., and at an additional entry. Now combined with The Scientific Monthly®. Copyright © 1979 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): \$34. Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): \$70. Foreign postage extra: Canada \$12, other (surface mail) \$15, air-surface via Amsterdam \$40. First class, airmail, school-year, and student rates on request. Single copies \$1.50 (\$2 by mail); back issues \$2.50 (\$3 by mail); classroom rates on request. Change of address: allow 6 weeks, giving old and new addresses and seven-digit account number. Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Science is indexed in the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and in several specialized indexes.

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#### COVER

A musk fragrance that the cosmetics industry has voluntarily withdrawn from all cosmetic preparations on the market causes a blue discoloration of the nervous system of rats when it is applied repeatedly to the skin. See page 633. [Stephen Shepherd, Silver Spring, Maryland]

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The French Institute of Health and Medical Research (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale) is organizing a series of meetings on advanced research topics in various biomedical fields. The meetings which started two years ago, are known as the INSERM CONFERENCES.

The aims of the conferences are :

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The chairman of each INSERM Conference will invite 15 to 20 scientists to give a report in line with the above conditions. The number of contributions will be limited to three of four per session and, at the discretion of the chairman, at least one third of the time will be given over to discussion and brief informal communications.

In addition to the invited speakers, at least fifty participants will attend the meeting, and efforts will be made to select young scientists. Experienced research workers from fields other than those relating to the Conference will also be welcome to attend. Participants will be chosen in such a way as to enable those engaged in all types of scientific research to establish personal contacts, exchange information and find new ways of working together.

#### **PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The INSERM CONFERENCES 1979 will be held at the Domaine de Seillac, near Blois (180 km from Paris), during the months of September and October 1979 (full address : Domaine de Seillac, 41150 Seillac, France). Each conference will last three and a half days, from Sunday evening (departure from Paris) to Thursday afternoon. Working sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. On free afternoons, participants will have a wide choice of leisure activities at the Domaine de Seillac and in the surrounding area (Tennis, Table-tennis, bicycling, visit to the Castles of the Loire).

#### **REGISTRATION FEE**

Participants whose applications are accepted but who are not invited speakers, will be asked to pay their registration fee and board (1000 FF).

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#### IMMUNOLOGY

#### **BCELL DIFFERENTIATION AND IDIOTYPES - October 1-4** M. SELIGMANN, chairman, M.D. COOPER, co-chairman.

	Ontogeny and B cell differentiation
Speakers :	A. COUTINHO (Basel), Nicole LE DOUARIN (Nogent-sur-Marne), P. KINCADE (Rye), F. MELCHERS (Basel)
Session 2 :	Immunoglobulin genes and their expression
	Ph. LEDER (Bethesda), T.H. RABBITTS (Cambridge), F. ROUGEON (Paris), I. SCHECHTER (Rehovot)
	Immunoglobulin receptors and secreted antibody products S. AVRAMEAS (Paris), D. GIVOL (Rehovot), P. LIACOPOULOS (Paris), M. PARKHOUSE (London), P. VASSALLI (Genève)
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Session 4 : Speakers :	Regulation of B-cell differentiation C. BONA (Paris), G. MÖLLER (Stockholm), B. PERNIS (New York), E. UNANUE (Boston)
Session 5 : <i>Speakers :</i>	Human and experimental models of defective B-cell differentiation M.D. COOPER (Birmingham, USA), H.G. KUNKEL (New York), W. PAUL (Bethesda), J.L. PREUD'HOMME (Paris)
Session 6 : Speakers :	Heterogeneity of idiotypes and of anti-idiotypic repertoire P.A. CAZENAVE (Paris), M. FOUGEREAU (Marseille), O. MÄKELÄ (Helsinki), A. NISONOFF (Boston), J. URBAIN (Brussels)
Sessions 7 : Speakers	Idiotypes and regulation of immune response (with emphasis on T cell idiotypic determinants) K. EICHMANN (Heidelberg), K. RAJEWSKY (Köln), B. RUBIN (Copenhagen and Marseille),

H. WIGZELL (Uppsala), D. WILSON (Philadelphia).

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(Oxford)	S. OTTOLENGHI	(Milano)
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#### POLYMORPHISM AND GENETICALLY DETERMINED DISEASES :

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– Dan Greenberg, <u>New Scientist</u>, 29 June 1978 Now, for the fourth consecutive year, AAAS is preparing its budget analysis and will convene its 4th Annual AAAS Colloquium on R&D and Public Policy. Sponsored by the AAAS Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy, the Colloquium will be held 19-20 June 1979 in Washington, D.C.

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- Science and Basic Research Impact of federal policies and practices on the conduct of research • Universities and academic science • Federal scientific institutions and capabilities • Basic and long-term research in industry • Public accountability versus excessive paperwork

<u>Research and Development: AAAS Report IV</u> covering R&D in the federal budget for FY1980, data on R&D in industry, international aspects of R&D, and other topics related to R&D and public policy is being prepared by Willis H. Shapley and Don I. Phillips and will be available in advance to Colloquium registrants. Registrants will also receive the published proceedings of the Colloquium.

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nonconventional energy technologies, of course, because many needed data are as vet nonexistent, and because important categories of harm are left out of his approach altogether. But by propagating an analysis riddled with distortions, errors, and inconsistencies, Inhaber has muddied rather than illuminated even the circumscribed part of the risk problem he tackled.

JOHN P. HOLDREN Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley 94720 KIRK R. SMITH

Resource Systems Institute, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

**GREGORY MORRIS** Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley

#### **References and Notes**

- 1. H. Inhaber, Risk of Energy Production (Report AECB 1119, Atomic Energy Control Board, Ot-tawa, Ontario, March 1978); *ibid.*, ed. 2, May 1978; *ibid.*, ed. 3, November 1978. The Science 1978; *ibid.*, ed. 3, November 1978. The Science article does not specify to which of the three edi-tions it refers, and some of its numbers differ from those in all three. Our comments on AECB 1119 here refer to the third edition unless other-
- wise specified.K. R. Smith, J. Weyant, J. P. Holdren, Evalua-ERG 75-5, Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley, July 1975). In-haber's first reference in his AECB report con-tains 30 citations to this report, 13 direct ones, plus 17 more where Inhaber took the data from our report but mentioned also the original source we had cited.
- J. P. Holdren, K. Anderson, P. Gleick, I. Mint-zer, G. Morris, K. R. Smith, Risk of Renewable Energy Sources: A Critique of the Inhaber Re-port (Report ERG 79-3, Energy and Resources) Group, University of California, Berkeley, April
- binder, offiction of the set of the "best estimate." 5. To derive this result we used the upper limit of
- the National Academy of Science dose the National Academy of Sciences dose-re-sponse relation referenced by Inhaber, for the most unfavorable location that the Academy considered (a plant sited 60 kilometers upwind from New York City) and worked backward from Inhaber's figure for public deaths to deter-mine the emissions needed to produce these. See National Academy of Sciences, Air Quality and Stationary Source Emission Control (Gov-ernment Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1925). Academy of Sciences 120 1975), chap. 13. 6. R. Manvi, Performace and Economics of Ter-
- restrial Solar Electric Central Power Plants (JPL Internal Report 900-781, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif, October 1976). We have consulted the head of the JPL solar project of which this work was a part, and he confirms our analysis of the point and of In-haber's error (R. Caputo, private communica-tion, March 1979).
- R. Caputo, An Initial Comparative Assessment of Orbital and Terrestrial Central Power Sys-tems (Final Report, Report 900-780, Jet Propul-sion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., March 1977). Inhaber propagated a number of errors from the 7. 1976 JPL internal memorandum, despite early

warnings from Caputo that this material was un-reliable (R. Caputo, personal communication); in fact the memorandum appears to have been Inhaber's main source for his methodology and for much of his data relating materials require-ments to occupational injuries and diseases.

- Average insolation on a horizontal surface in the United States is about 180 watts per square me-ter (averaged over seasons and night and day). 8. Assuming the collectors cover half the land area charged to the plant and that the efficiency of the charged to the plant and that the efficiency of the cells in converting sunlight to electricity is 10 percent, and using the same 30-year lifetime assumed by Inhaber, yields 180 W/m<sup>2</sup> × 0.10 × 0.50 × 30 years = 270 watt-year/m<sup>2</sup>, which gives 3700 square meters per megawatt-year.
  9. C. L. Comar and L. A. Sagan, Annu. Rev. Energy 1, 581 (1976).

#### **Paper Studies**

We tabulate and ponder many aspects of our research and development (R & D) process in this country [see, for example, Senator Bayh's concerns with bringing developments to application (Letters, 12 Jan., p. 120)]. Scholars have devised thoughtful models of the process of technological innovation. For instance, Kelly et al. (1) call attention to its nonlinearity, and Wenk and Kuehn emphasize the multifaceted governmental roles (2). However, to the best of my knowledge, neither the conceptualizers nor the empiricists-see (3)-have focused on the dimension of "physical" R & D versus paper studies.

It is difficult to specify what fits into the paper study category. I have in mind such things as forecasts, technological feasibility and market studies, cost-benefit analyses, environmental impact statements and technology assessments, systems and policy analyses, and program evaluation. I speculate that such endeavors represent a substantial fraction of the federal R & D budget, and that they play a crucial role in directing the technological innovation process. But I don't know and wonder if anyone does now know.

I suggest that compilation and dissemination of some basic information on the dimension could usefully address a number of issues. For instance, as a faculty member in a department that trains operations researchers and systems analysts, I would like to know the scale of efforts supported in such areas. From a national perspective, one could ask what sort of people perform various paper studies and whether they are suitably trained? For example, the growing commitment to program evaluation requires many professionals. Are we educating such people in the most sensible manner for this task or just relabeling willing contract researchers? It would also seem worthwhile to inquire broadly into who

uses what sorts of analyses (4). More pointedly, we might attempt to evaluate the return on investment from such studies and their role in the technological innovation process.

#### Alan L. Porter

Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta 30332

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- D.C., 1977). M. R. Berg, J. L. Brudney, T. D. Fuller, D. N. Michael, B. K. Roth, Factors Affecting Utiliza-wion of Technology Assessment Studies (Center for Research on Utilization of Scientific Knowledge, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1978).

#### **Technical Comments: Delay Time**

If a major American automobile manufacturer took longer to admit to an error and recall a model of automobile than it had taken to produce the model in the first place, we would not expect the nation's press to remain silent. Yet this is the position that Science consistently finds itself in, and there does not seem to have been any public comment, much less protest. Errors are inevitable in all scientific periodicals; in Science the avenue for remedying scientific or editorial errors is the Technical Comments section. We recently made a study of the speed with which these corrections reached print, and the study suggests there is room for improvement.

We examined 20 issues of Science published between 25 August 1978 and 12 January 1979. We examined the publication delays for the 26 Technical Comments we found, and for a sample of 40 Reports (two selected at random from each issue). The comparison is striking: The average delay from first submission to publication was more than 100 days longer for Technical Comments than for Reports (1). The results are similar if instead we compare the times between the submission of the final revisions and the dates of publications; here the Technical Comments were delayed an average of 71 days more than the Reports (2).

It is not difficult to identify the source of this discrepancy; it is the time that passes while Science waits for a reply to the Technical Comment by the original authors. For the 15 Technical Comments to which the original author replied, the mean delay between the submission of the final revision of the Technical Comment and the submission of the author's reply was 127 days (minimum delay = 31 days, maximum = 272). Once the author's reply is received, the processing of the Technical Comment seems to be accelerated (mean delay until publication = 77 days, compared with a mean delay from reception to publication of revised Reports of 118 days).

Thus it seems that Technical Comments take more than 100 days longer to process than Reports do because Science waits an average of 4 months for the author to reply to the Technical Comment. We suggest that this is too long. We suggest (i) that authors be allotted no more than 1 month to submit a reply, and that failure to meet this deadline result in the deferment of the reply to a later issue; and (ii) that steps be taken to accelerate the editorial handling of the first submissions of Technical Comments (delays now average 3 to 4 months). Not all Technical Comments that are submitted present substantive, correct criticism of published articles, and some delay is inevitable. But the influence of Science upon the nation's press is great, and delay in publishing corrections can aggravate the effect of those few mistaken or misleading Articles or Reports that do slip through the editorial sieve. Unless there is some improvement, Science risks falling behind science.

> STEPHEN M. STIGLER VIRGINIA L. STIGLER

1243 Los Trancos Road, Portola Valley, California 94025

#### Note

- For the 40 Reports, the mean delay from first submission to publication was 213 days (mini-mum delay = 71 days, maximum = 434), while for Technical Comments it was 318 days (mini-mum delay = 114 days, maximum = 631). One of the Reports in the sample was listed as having been originally submitted in 1928. We took this to be a misprint, although it may be an editorial delay fit for the Guinness Book of Records.
- The mean delay from final revision to publication was 129 days for the Reports (minimum delay = 71 days, maximum = 241), while for The revision 2402. Technical Comments it was 200 days (minimum delay = 94, maximum = 406).

Erratum: In the Research News article, "Fields Medals (IV): An institut for the key idea" (17 Nov. 1978, page 737), Jean-Pierre Serre's affiliation was incorrect. He is at the College de France. Erratum: In the issue of 26 January on page 343,

the credit for the photograph of Albert Einstein should have included the name of the photographer, David Rothman.

Erratum: On page 857, second column, third line of the article about Eugene Garfield (News and Comment, 24 Nov. 1978), "Garfield's gross" should have read "Garfield's dross."

Erratum: Two errors of affiliation were made in the article about Albert Szent-Györgyi in the issue of 9 February (News and Comment, page 522). Harold Swartz is with the Medical College of Wisconsin, not the University of Wisconsin. Gabor Fodor is at the University of West Virginia, not the University of Wisconsin

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#### Nuclear Safety: Is Scientific Literacy the Answer?

SCIENCE

Last month 700 scientists, engineers, and technology watchers from industry, government, and academia gathered in San Francisco at the Edison Centennial Symposium, "Science, Technology, and the Human Prospect." The distressing events 3000 miles away at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant were not part of the agenda, but the accident nonetheless contributed to a defensive tone that prevailed throughout the 3-day conference. Some speakers and participants, alluding to both the media coverage and public reaction to the accident, deplored what they saw as widespread "scientific illiteracy" and called for public education in science and technology to forestall what one speaker referred to as a "Luddite revolt."

To the extent that this view, reminiscent of Sputnik days, represents an instinctive reaction of the scientific community to widespread public dismay with technology, its underlying premise deserves some critical comment.

Simply stated, the proposition seems to be this: If the public and media were more scientifically literate (for instance, understood the difference between dose and dose rate, or the meaning of "critical" or "hydrogen explosion"), then a wider consensus on such issues as the safety of nuclear power could be expected. The public reaction to the issue would then be less emotional, more rational.

This hypothesis can be readily tested by considering the extent of harmonious agreement on matters of nuclear safety that exists within the scientific community itself, presumably the best available model of a population possessing scientific literacy. A passing acquaintance with the nuclear safety position of various organizations supported by capable scientists, attendance at a nuclear-licensing hearing, or a day of eavesdropping in the corridors of several well-known government, academic, and consulting scientific organizations would show that scientists are, on this matter, no less influenced by personal feuds and ideological differences than the small-town clergy of a Trollope novel is on matters of ceremony and doctrine. I would go so far as to say that the divisions are deeper and more bitter among the scientifically literate than in the general public.

The paradox-that the best informed are the most confused-disappears only if we consider the whole nuclear power issue as merely symbolic of a deeper ideological rift, comparable to, say, the early 19th-century Romantic revolt. One might wonder whether the whole nuclear safety issue even makes sense in the absence of a deeper societal conflict; presumably a rational visitor from outer space (or perhaps even from China) whose acquaintance with our culture was limited to the movie, The China Syndrome, and our mortality statistics, would conclude that the alarm of moviegoers was caused by the film's explicit portrayal of unsafe driving, drinking, and smoking habits, not the hazard of nuclear power.

If, as I am suggesting here, the nuclear safety issue is more of a quasireligious than a technological conflict, then widespread improvement of scientific literacy is unlikely to improve matters. This is not to suggest that educators do not have an important task before them. Exposure and examination of the ideological aspects of the issue, using both traditional liberal arts and contemporary social science techniques, might do more to restore rationality than widespread improvement of scientific literacy. At the very least, development in young scientists and engineers of a critical ability to distinguish between technical and pseudotechnical social questions would seem desirable, if only to support their morale. As it stands, we have on our hands a generation of students so harried by today's pop ethics that many of the best consider careers in a regulatory bureaucracy or a romantic retreat to the design of small tools as the only remaining respectable form of scientific or technological endeavor.-RICHARD L. MEEHAN, President, Earth Sciences Associates, Palo Alto, California 94304

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#### Literature

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED

#### (Continued from page 610)

**Evolution and Ecology**. Essays on Social Transformation. Julian H. Steward. Jane C. Steward and Robert F. Murphy, Eds. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1978. x, 406 pp. Paper, \$4.95. Reprint of the 1977 edition.

**Excavations at Nichoria in Southwest Greece**. Vol. 1, Site, Environs, and Techniques. George Rapp, Jr., and S. E. Aschenbrenner, Eds. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1978. xxviii, 340 pp., illus., + maps. \$29.75.

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