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LETTER\$

Max Born: Another Impression

The review by J. L. Heilbron of the published "Recollections" (1) of my late father Max Born (17 Aug., p. 740) gives an inadequate impression of his character. As it was his character as much as his scientific imagination that provided the basis of the world center for theoretical physics in Göttingen, that impression should not be left uncorrected.

What Heilbron describes as my father's continuous self-depreciation was the marvelous, unconscious humility which is a hallmark of the greatest men. He was quite well aware of his mental powers but clearly felt strongly that they gave him no rights over others. He was anything but humorless; he loved fun and laughed a great deal. To describe him as merely decent is a masterpiece of understatement; he was one of the innately best people anyone could hope to meet.

His sparks of genius were by no means limited to physics. Heilbron leaves out vast areas of achievement which were on the highest level: his music, his philosophy, his political activities, his work for others, and his many close friendships with outstanding contemporaries in science and the arts.

Those who read the book will realize that Max Born was rightly appreciated for many wonderful qualities, quite apart from those he displayed as a scientist.

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References

1. M. Born, My Life: Recollections of a Nobel Laureate (Scribner, New York, 1979).

Two-Career Job Hunting

Since we recognize that many women in academia are penalized by being part of two-career households (21 Sept., p. 1125), the question becomes, How do we deal with the problem?

The right kind of data retrieval system may help. It is possible for employment services to index available jobs by geographical proximity for retrieval by pairs. For example, a professor of physics may be sharing a household with an associate professor of political science, and both are looking for jobs; a computer program can be set up to seek out suitable jobs within reasonable physical proximity one of another. Defining the

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