

the increase in the proportion of female admissions never actually happened. A change in admissions-recording practices, he explained, was the source of the apparent spike.

The previous [pre-1918] and later [post-1919] statistics were filed by the famous Dr. Menas Sarcos Gregory. During the war he went into Government service. The deputy who substituted for him . . . did something different from Gregory. He filed "all" the alcoholic admissions in the entire Bellevue Hospital, whereas Gregory used to file only the Alcoholic Ward admissions, in the old days, and the Psychiatric Division admissions since it got its new building. This obviously accounted for the seeming increase of female admissions in those two years; for apparently there was a policy of admitting most drunken women to the general medical wards rather than to the 'alcoholic ward' in Psycho. Likely, too, that in the old Alcoholic Ward (pre-1930s) there wasn't much room for women.—This error in the 1936 *Science* paper had never been corrected.

Keller's statement implies that more than the spike was awry in Jolliffe's admissions trend-lines. If the female admissions were underreported in years before and after 1918 and 1919, then both female admissions and, by extension, total admissions trends reported in Jolliffe's paper are likely problematic.

Keller noted that he had intended on more than one occasion to write *Science* about the matter, to illustrate, he said, the "vagaries of hypothesizing," but he apparently never got around to it.

The data offered in Jolliffe's 60-year-old paper retain more than merely archaic interest. Figures relating to alcoholism admissions and alcohol consumption during national prohibition are used and of interest to, for example, both sides in the current national debate over drug decriminalization. (see, for example, E. A. Nadelmann, Letters, 1 Dec. 1989, p. 1104)

I hope and trust that Keller and the good Dr. Jolliffe would have been relieved and pleased to see this little matter finally cleared up!

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Corrections and Clarifications

The Random Samples item "Locus for Parkinson's" (15 Nov., p. 1085) incorrectly stated that scientists analyzed blood samples from 400 members of a Parkinson's-prone family. The scientists actually analyzed 28 blood samples from the 400-member family.

In the letter by Peter Bearse (18 Oct., p. 325), the page number given for Floyd E. Bloom's editorial of 2 August should have been "559," not "869."

The ScienceScope item "NIH's harvest of special projects" (11 Oct., p. 167) reported incorrectly that a \$200,000 grant went to the National Biomedical Research Foundation. In fact, the grant went to the National Foundation for Biomedical Research.

In the map accompanying the News & Comment article "India's spreading health crisis draws global arsenic experts" (11 Oct., p. 175), Bangladesh should have been shown as east of West Bengal, not north of Nepal and Bhutan.

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (*Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.

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