

Were it not that the ganglionic nature of the neuro-adrenal junction prevents excitation of the adrenal by its own secretion,⁹ adrenaline secretion once started might be self-perpetuating. Instead the nature of the junction introduces the possibility of self-limitation of adrenal discharge by the ganglionic inhibitory action of adrenaline. Work in progress is expected to yield data that will further test this view.

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CHLORAZOL FAST PINK BKS

IN the April 14 issue of *SCIENCE* there is a communication from Dr. Walter Modell drawing attention to the valuable characteristics of the azo dye known as Chlorazol Fast Pink BKS, Color Index No. 353, as an anti-coagulant.

This dye has been prepared in a pure form under my direction for quite a number of years in order to save the biological laboratory the necessity of purification, and has been supplied free of cost, in small quantities, to institutions of learning. Dr. Charles E. King, of Vanderbilt University, states that the material, as furnished, is so little toxic that he is able to give a full dose in one injection, although the slight shock, when this is done, can be avoided by dividing the amount and giving it in three portions.

This communication is made to inform those interested that, if they are in need of very small quantities, they can obtain these without the necessity of doing their own purification.

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WILMINGTON, DEL.

"STARS" IN AMERICAN MEN OF SCIENCE

IN the "Distribution of the Younger Starred Scientists" by Professor S. S. Visser, which recently appeared in *SCIENCE*,¹ occurs the following statement: "Universities which had fewer starred men on their faculty in 1938 than in 1906 include Columbia, 60 in 1906, 39½ in 1938; Cornell 33, 25½; Dartmouth 6, 1; New York 9, 7; Clark 7, 1; Indiana 6, 3; Missouri 9, 1; Wesleyan 7, 4."

The casual reader would infer that these faculties had deteriorated or at least lost many of their most talented or creatively industrious members. A little further examination, however, reveals that the article contains no data as to actual numbers in 1938. In lieu of actual numbers for each institution, the article

takes the total numbers of new names starred in 1921-1937 (third to sixth editions), mistakes them for totals on these faculties in 1938, and, comparing them with totals for 1906, finds in this particular group of institutions "fewer starred men" than in 1906.

As a simple and modest example, Dartmouth (which still prides itself on being a "liberal college" with no university aspirations) had in 1906 six starred members and actually six (rather than one as stated) in 1938. If an interested person should take the trouble to look up in the recent edition of *American Men of Science* the 1938 numbers for other institutions with diminishing returns, some of them, too, very likely would be removed from the black list.

A similar confusion appears in the two preceding paragraphs. The number of starred men included in the 1906 selection of 1,000 is compared with the total for each institution of selections in 1921, 1927, 1932 and 1937 (*ca.*, another 1,000). A list of institutions is given in which these total subsequent selections approximately equal the original selection for that institution: *e.g.*, Harvard 66 in 1906, compared with 69 (inadvertently identified with the unascertained number on the faculty in 1938).

Another list of institutions which have "gained notably" includes California, 27 in 1906 compared with 39, which is wrongly assumed to be the unascertained number on the faculty in 1938, but really is the total of the four selections made during the past 18 years.

If all the men and women starred in 1906 had died, or somehow become completely annihilated, before 1938, Professor Visser's statistical interpretation of the selections made during the last two decades would have been approximately correct.

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THE portion of an article on this subject reprinted in the June 23 issue (89: 583-585) contains two inadequate statements. Although the study is concerned with the younger starred scientists, those starred in 1921-1937, and refers to the older group (those starred in 1903 or 1909) only for sake of comparison, a statement on the 1938 distribution of starred scientists does not make this limitation clear. What was meant was that certain institutions had in 1938 or earlier of the 1,101 scientists starred in 1921-1937 the numbers specified, which totals were greater or less than those institutions had of the 1,000 starred in 1903. A very few of these older men have not yet retired, whereas the quoted statements imply that they have all died or retired.

STEPHEN S. VISSER

THE PACIFIC ENTOMOLOGICAL SURVEY

A NOTE under this heading in *SCIENCE* for June 16, 1939, over several signatures from Hawaii, has been

⁸ C. W. Darrow and E. Gellhorn, *Proc. Amer. Jour. Physiol.*, page 58, April, 1939.

⁹ P. Trendelenburg, *Ergebn. der Physiologie*, 21: 549, 1923.

¹ *SCIENCE*, 89: 583-585, June 23, 1939, reprinted (abridged) from *American Journal of Science*, 237 (1): 48-65, January, 1939.