guarantee of immunity to the prevailing myths that govern a society. Indeed, it appears to me that such people are even more susceptible than those of lower economic, educational, or social status. It would be a valuable, if exceedingly difficult, task for a good sociologist to study the correlation, if any, between status and the ability to view one's culture with detachment.

Some evidence is already available. The Lynds, in their study of Middletown, listed a great many myths (which had little relation to objectively observed facts) that were held by the business class as tenets of faith even more important to their lives than the professed doctrines of their churches. Gunnar Myrdal showed how the myths of race varied with classes in the South, but the myths of the upper classes seemed no closer to reality as Myrdal saw it than those of the lower classes. The recent election, fought from both sides in large measure on substantially false issues, might be adduced as supporting data.

Thurman Arnold, no trained sociologist but an astute observer, pointed out in *The Folklore of Capitalism* how, without any thought of compulsion or expediency, the sound, well-thought-of, respected people in any community are particularly enmeshed in the current mythology and the institutional *status quo,* and are unable, even when the need is obvious, to take part in changing it.

The statement of the Soviet Academy would be ludicrous were not the subject so serious. But is it not an acute case of a disease that afflicts us all?

STEWART ROWE

7761 Stillwell Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio

Separation of Organic and Inorganic Compounds

THE paper of McDonald, Urbin, and Williamson (*Science,* **112,** 227 [1950]) is so very interesting that it will undoubtedly attract considerable attention. It is therefore worth while to comment critically upon their final paragraph, in which they contemplate experiments on the movement of ions on a filter paper under the influence of both an electric and a magnetic field. "In effect, this system would be equivalent to a mass spectrograph applicable to charged particles in solution." The implication appears to be that the masses of charged particles in solution could be measured by this method.

In the mass spectrograph, the ions are moving freely in a vacuum, and any force exerted upon them, electrical or magnetic, will result in an acceleration, depending upon the ionic properties of charge and mass. The mass spectrograph is merely a mechanism for converting the variable response of the particles to the forces from a linear effect, which would be very difficult to observe, to a transverse effect easily recorded on a photographic surface.

In the case of ions in solution there are two essential differences. In the first place, the ions are not moving freely, they do not accelerate continuously but reach a constant velocity in an extremely short time, and this velocity, which is measurable, is dependent upon the ionic properties of charge and size, not mass. Second, with ions in solution it has been possible to devise methods of investigating the "linear" effect—that is, the varying movements of ions traveling along a straight line—so that there is no real need to convert to the transverse effect in order to observe them. The introduction of the magnetic field would give no more information on the mass or size of the ion than do present electrical methods.

I hope that this comment will do more to draw attention to this interesting paper pioneering this new research method than to detract in any way by criticism.

A. C. ENGLISH

Department of Chemistry
University of Kentucky

Indonesian Place Names

SOME biologists who, like myself, have only occasional contact with workers in the East Indies may not fully realize the nature of recent changes in place names. I am indebted to D. A. Hooijer, a vertebrate zoologist of the Leiden Museum, who is temporarily in the United States, and who has spent much of his life in the Dutch East Indies, for clarifying this subject. With the change from Dutch administration to native control there has been a substitution of native Indonesian names for names of Dutch sponsorship, which in most cases are those we have been accustomed to see and use. Thus, the Zoölogisch Museum, where such well-known entomologists as M. A. Lieftinck (Odonata) and A. Diakonoff (Micro-lepidoptera) have been working, has not moved, but the original Indonesian name Bogor has replaced Buitenzorg. In the same way Batavia has been replaced by Djakarta (sometimes appearing in newspapers in the U. S. as Jakarta). Dr. Hooijer tells me that the use of the Indonesian names is highly important in addressing mail, as that bearing Dutch place names is likely not to be delivered, because of the present attitude of postal authorities in the Republik Indonesia Serikat (R.I.S.) ("United Indonesian Republic").

ASHLEY B. GURNEY

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington, D. C.

Erratum

In reference to paper by Bacchus and Toompas, "The Influence of Ascorbic Acid on the Leukocyte Response of Rats Submitted to Stress" (*Science,* **113,** 269 [1951]), in order to bring the numbering of groups on page 269 in accord with that on page 270, Group I (one) should be regarded as *saline pretreated,* and Group II (two) as *ascorbic acid pretreated.*

HABEEB BACCHUS

The George Washington University School of Medicine