space is used if the paper abstracted includes a subject, of particular interest to the abstractor, that is not clearly designated in the title of the paper. Space is also provided for *Reprint No.* The authors number each of their reprints as received and file them in numerical sequence. This number is recorded on the abstract card for that paper. Since the abstract of any paper can be found in less than one minute, the exact location of the reprint can be determined very quickly.

The large number of combinations of subject headings possible on these punch cards provides for a much finer subdivision of subject matter than is practicable by the usual method of cross-indexing abstract cards. In addition, the time required to cross-index and file abstract cards is eliminated, as the cards need not be filed in any particular order. Space requirements are reduced since no cross-indexing cards are needed. Although the cards described here were designed for use by bacteriologists, similar cards could be readily adapted for use by scientists in other fields.

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"Data"

DR. BACHARACH (SCIENCE, **117**, 537 [1953]) surely wishes to restrict unduly the meaning of the useful word "data." The primary products of an experiment are the numerical or other abstractions known as its results. When these are transferred from a recording instrument on a bench to a sheet of paper on a desk they become the data which the experiment has *given* towards the construction of a theory or course of action. Experimental results are raw materials; experimental data are about to be put to use.

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The Research Committee in the Organization of the International Biological and Medical Associations and their Congresses

THE Research Committee established by the International Association of Gerontology in 1951 might suggest a similar organization in other international biological and medical congresses.

At present the usual organization of these congresses does not completely satisfy all the active research workers. There is no doubt that the present congresses do important work. Such congresses, however, contribute comparatively little to the *rapid* progress of research work, since the reports, irrespective of whether they are reported at the congresses or not, are published in various scientific journals, in which they can be studied more carefully than is possible at the congresses themselves. Their basic deficiency, however, is in the fact that at the usual congresses only the results of research already performed are reported, while for the solution of every problem a carefully devised research scheme and methods are of primary importance. To devise a perfect research scheme is very difficult indeed.

The point is that usually every research worker likes to approach any problem from his particular angle and to use his particular methods and tests for its solution. Such a "one-track approach" limits his research scheme, in some cases, to such an extent that it becomes impossible for him to arrive at definite conclusions; while some additional line or method in his research would allow him not only to obtain wider and more numerous results, but also to use his energy, time, and money in a more economical and productive way.

Therefore, at first during the last war, special Research Committees, consisting of the best specialists in various countries, were established (for example, for splitting the atom). At meetings of these Committees the research schemes and methods necessary for the solution of the proposed problems are considered at round-table discussions by a number of specialists. Each one considers the research project from a different angle and proposes different research methods. In this way the best possible and the most comprehensive research schemes and methods for any project can be worked out.

Of course, the author of the project is at complete liberty to accept the suggestions made at the round-table discussions or to reject them.

Permanency in the work of Research Committees. It is desirable that, during the whole duration of the Congress, the Sessions of the Research Committee be held separately from, but simultaneously with, the usual Sessions, so as not to interfere with the activity of the latter. The Research Sessions will be of great importance and interest only to a comparatively small group of active research specialists. However, on this small number of specialists the solution of all the biological and medical research problems depends completely; and also of all the socio-economic and other practical problems related to them (as for example in the case of gerontological socio-economic problems).

The sessions of these committees have to be arranged not only during the congresses, but also between the congresses. The financial difficulties indicate that these "between sessions" should be local, for example, conferences of the American and European Divisions of the Committee. These major local conferences can be further subdivided into meetings of small groups of specialists in each country who, at the general conferences, have found that in their current research work they are interested in the same limited line of research.

The Research Committee on Biology and Medicine of the International Association of Gerontology. The Committee was established by the Association in 1951, during the 2nd International Gerontological Congress in St. Louis. A little later the whole Research Committee was organized, with subcommittees on Cellular Biology, Endocrinology, Pathology, Nutrition and Metabolism, and Clinical Pathologic Physiology. Since it appears to be the first of its kind in the activity of the medical and scientific associations, it can be considered as an experiment. When put into wider practice, the committee might introduce some improvements into its organization. The participants of the committee already consider it to be a definite success.

All the details of the establishment and activities of the committee are given in the report on the subject to the 2nd International Gerontological Congress (*1*), the Proceedings of the Endocrinological Session of the Congress (*2*), and the Proceedings of the Conference of the European Division of the Committee (*3–5*).

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Lepidurus kirkii

LINDER (*1*) refers to a view that there is a biological difference between the branchiopods, *Apus* and *Lepidurus*; the former occur in pools that dry up, the latter are found in permanent water. He writes of having seen *L. apus* in ponds in Sweden which dry up every year, and he refers to reports by others about both genera.

It is evident that relevant data on *Lepidurus* are rather scanty and the following may be placed on record: On Marley's Hill, near Christchurch, New Zealand, are three ponds nearly equidistant and roughly in line north to south. The southernmost pond dries up annually, the other two have not been known to dry up in the past twenty years. *L. kirkii* appears regularly, annually, in the temporary pond.

In the permanent ponds, rare occurrences of two or three, or some greater small number of *L. kirkii* have been noted sometimes at intervals of several years, and are quite clearly accidental. These latter mature specimens grow to an enormous size, three times that of those in the temporary pond. They probably live a long time. There is no evidence that they have any progeny. Their presence may be caused by the carriage by the wind of occasional eggs from the dry site to the south, or from some other site.

The conclusion is that the eggs of *L. kirkii* must be dried before they will hatch.

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Food Prices in Palo Alto

IN 1944 and 1948 reports on food prices in Palo Alto, California, were published in SCIENCE, **101**, 124 (1944); **108**, 425 (1948). The surveys, upon which these reports are based, were initiated in 1939 and have been made annually in the 3rd week of May. Since it has been observed that these surveys are of more than local interest, the later data are now presented for publication.

Greater Palo Alto (inclusive of Stanford) may still be described as a university town, now having a population of about 42,000 inclusive of 7200 students and 1000 university employees and members of their families resident on the Stanford campus. Of the wage earners resident in this community, approximately 27% are employed in San Francisco or other neighboring towns, about 10% are employed by Stanford University, and about 22% by light industries in this area. The remainder are engaged in the manifold activities characteristic of such communities. There is no heavy industry in the area.

The survey of food prices referred to here has been made among the retail stores in Palo Alto, in all cases during the 3rd or 4th week of May. Year by year the same items were priced. To give a proper weighting to the list, the quantities of various foodstuffs required for a "liberal" diet were used. The cost of such a diet was determined for one week's maintenance of an adult man engaged in moderate physical activity. It is recognized, of course, that many different liberal diets could be devised, though all would be characterized, according to present concepts, by being comparatively low in potatoes and highly processed cereals and comparatively rich in so-called high quality protein foods. The particular diet that we have priced contains an abundance of dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, and high quality proteins. It is not, however, a "luxury" diet. Differences in regional dietary practices or in availability of foodstuffs would permit many variations without serious trespass upon the limiting characteristics of a liberal diet. The particular foods about which these surveys have centered would provide, per day, approximately 3100 Cal, 137 g fat, 318 g carbohydrate, 107 g of protein, 1.36 g calcium, 2.04 g phosphorus, 20 mg iron, 15,000 units of vitamin A or its equivalent, 160 mg ascorbic acid, 370 units of vitamin D, 1.4 mg of thiamin, and 2.7 mg of riboflavin. These values refer to the food as purchased and should be reduced by probably 10% to