Boycott

There are two possible solutions to the problem of "multivolumed rehashes" which was presented in the letter of David M. Greenberg (6 Mar., p. 992). When approached by the Hippocrates Press to contribute to their three-volume *Problems in Omphalology*, the scientist can refuse outright if he considers that the field has already been covered. If the work nevertheless is published (£10 per volume, 9½ guineas if ordered in advance), he should persuade the Library Committee not to buy it.

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South African Attitude

The following is a most interesting paragraph from a 1962 publication of the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research entitled *Notes for South African scientists visiting the U.S.A. and Canada*:

> It must be borne in mind that South Africans are very much foreigners in the United States, that great numbers of scientific visitors pour into the U.S.—particularly from the newer countries of Africa and Asia under technical assistance programmes—and that American scientists and institutions have virtually to protect themselves from visitors. They do not take kindly to prolonged visits. In general, interviews of an hour or two with individuals and a day at a laboratory are acceptable. Requests for casual visits of two days or more to a single institution are likely to cause embarrassment to the hosts, unless very special circumstances prevail, in which case the reasons for the request should be stated in detail. This, of course, does not apply to relatively long visits to a single institution, when in any case special arrangements have to be made.

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Information Programs about Environmental Contamination

The alarm about air pollution sounded by John R. Goldsmith at the AAAS annual meeting (20 Mar., p. 1349) was sounded also at the annual meeting of the executive board of Scientists' Institute for Public Information, at which time the board voted that the Institute should develop—to be added to its program on radiation—public information programs on air and water pollution and the effects of large-scale use of pesticides and herbicides. We are designing a comprehensive project to train scientists in the 20-odd science-information committees around the country to inform the public by means of lectures and publications. Our plans include establishing information committees in communities where none exist, organizing national and regional conferences, symposia, and workshops, and encouraging local research. We look forward to publication of the report of the AAAS Air Conservation Commission, with a view to using it as a manual. We expect also to use the excellent materials of the Public Health Service. In addition, we plan to issue our own reports, including articles in the technical information bulletin *Nuclear Information* (soon to change its name), published in St. Louis.

The action of the SIPI board reflects a long-standing desire to initiate programs on all forms of environmental contamination. The intense public concern over fallout led the local information committees to concentrate initially on this contaminant. As public interest in radiation has waned with the test-ban treaty, the committees have been able to broaden the scope of their activities. Preliminary programs on air pollution have been initiated by the Palo Alto, St. Louis, New York, and Western Montana committees.

The board's view of the relation between radiation and non-nuclear environmental contamination was explained in a policy statement as follows:

> We recognize that our past and continuing concern with the hazards resulting from radiation and nuclear war and our present emphasis on general contamination of the environment reflect a deep-seated problem regarding the social effects of modern science and technology. These issues exemplify a tendency for the growing power of science to be used in large-scale technological applications without adequate scientific knowledge of their eventual effect on the capability of the environment to support society.
>
> Many of the beneficial uses of science are now limited by this defect. In directing attention to the hazards of technology, we hope thereby to help reduce the limitations on the social benefits which can be derived from modern science. Thus, the conservation of the environment is a matter of urgent attention for the scientist and the public.

The three basic principles of the science-information movement continue to be that (i) information is presented without political or moral judgments, which judgments we consider the prerogative and responsibility of all citizens; (ii) information is prepared with scientific objectivity, which includes attention to divergent studies and interpretations; and (iii) information is freely available to all.

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Japanese Names

The romanizing of Japanese names presents certain difficulties which are demonstrated in the article "Science in Japan" by L. Campbell (21 Feb., p. 776). Thus, on the first page the names *Ken-iti* and *Koichi* appear. To be consistent, these should be either *Kenichi* and *Koichi* (Hepburn system) or *Keniti* and *Koiti* (Nihon or Kunrei system). On page 779 we see *Nishijima, Nishimura,* and *Yamashita,* on page 782 *Higasi* and *Onisi.* The syllable *-si* should be *-shi* in every case (Hepburn), or else *-shi* should be *-si.* Two ways are used to indicate pronunciation—*Ken-iti* on page 776 and *Shin'-ichiro* on 779. In the same issue, the name of the author of "Social life of Japanese monkeys" (p. 783), D. Miyadi, is romanized according to the Nippon system; in the Kunrei system it would be written *Miyazi,* in the Hepburn system *Miyaji.* The last gives the best phonetic rendition.

Perhaps the spellings follow each individual's personal usage, a reflection of the confusion engendered by the availability of the three different systems alluded to. At present, grade school children apparently are taught modified Kunrei system; however, the Hepburn system, a more natural one giving fairly faithful phonetic renditions of Japanese words, is used, for example, for station names along the Japanese National Railway lines.

Foreigners find the Hepburn system easiest to use. This was recognized by the Japanese government in a statement issued when Shigeru Hoshida was prime minister, to the effect that for ease in international communication the Hepburn system is desirable.

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