

Above-average students appear for the College Boards; we cannot be sure where such students acquire all their knowledge of a subject, especially as there is a lapse for many of them of one or more years between completing a course and taking the Board exam.

Grobman showed some concern over the influence on curriculum of widely used tests such as the College Boards. The committee does not try to dictate through its tests what should be taught, but is aware of the influence of examinations on curriculum. For this reason the committee attempts to encourage change by keeping the tests abreast of the trends. The extent to which College Board examinations influence curriculum is moot and undeterminable. Less than 3 percent of the nation's 2 million biology students take the tests. The tests are highly secure. New forms are prepared for each sitting. Teachers do not have access to them, even the outdated forms. Examinees may report a few details back to their teachers, but as nearly as the committee can ascertain, the feedback is a report not so much of the familiar as of the new and unfamiliar. An examinee, for example, who encounters DNA or light-and-dark reactions for the first time on a CEEB examination would be prone to report the fact to his teacher. It would seem reasonable, therefore, that student feedback would tend to encourage rather than obstruct changes in curriculum.

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### Tax Deductions

In my earlier letter ("Beware the tax collector," 26 Feb., p. 986) I did not intend to imply that professional expenditures were being routinely disallowed by the Internal Revenue Service as tax deductions. I have had such deductions allowed on several occasions, as have many others. That there is a problem is evidenced by cases of disallowance, such as the one I described, in other parts of the country, to which my attention has been called since my letter was published.

My intention was to point out that each tax return is subject to interpretation by the local IRS agent. One should be prepared for the occasion if one happens to deal with an over-

zealous agent who regards professional affairs as a hobby. Obtaining a just settlement in these cases can be time-consuming and expensive.

The process will probably continue on a local basis until a national ruling has been made which can be cited to IRS agents if necessary. I suggest that the most effective remedy is to be had through our professional societies rather than on an individual basis.

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### The Primate Centers and Taxonomy

HersHKovitz's complaint about the neglect of taxonomy and zoogeography in primate research (5 Mar., p. 1156) is justified, but it is directed against the protagonists of his own cause. He says of the Primate Research Center program: "It seems incredible that the government would spend millions of dollars for the establishment and operation of seven huge primate centers and millions more for their respective research programs but not one cent for . . . authoritative determination of the kinds of animals used in research." This statement is based solely on a preliminary planning report, the *Fact Sheet* to which he refers, written when only one of the seven centers was operational and the others were still in the blueprint stage. Also, at that time as now, the program could be planned only to support interested scientists; no government funds can create the unavailable workers in morphological taxonomy and zoogeography of primate animals. The fact is that the scarcity of authoritative texts is due to the rarity of competent scientists rather than to lack of support in this field of research.

It is expected that the publication of HersHKovitz's own work will fill many of the existing gaps. However, it is the support by the Primate Centers program which brings about a rapid accumulation of new data in those fields related to primate taxonomy where interested workers are available. Morphological taxonomy is represented by the monumental work by W. C. Osman Hill, *Primates: Comparative Anatomy and Taxonomy* (Wiley, New York), now in its sixth volume, begun in 1953 in England and since 1962 carried out in this Primate Center. Most of the other workers, however, are interested

primarily in differentiation on the molecular level of blood and tissue components, in differential parasite susceptibility, and in neuroanatomy as delineated by MacLean's answer (5 Mar., p. 1157) to HersHKovitz's letter. In some of these areas the available information has been more than doubled in the last 2 years because of support by the Primate Centers, even though most of them are not fully operational.

Certainly much work still remains to be done, and I should like to join MacLean in his statement that "It is to be hoped that HersHKovitz's letter will stimulate further interest in the important problem of the taxonomy and zoogeography pertaining to animals used in research." This appeal, however, is a plea to research workers and teachers rather than to funding agencies.

Finally, I am certain that it should not be assumed a priori that the planned program of Japanese-American studies of primate biology, reported in *Science* by L. Carmichael and A. J. Riopelle (20 Nov. 1964, p. 1078), will be carried out with taxonomic parameters excluded, as HersHKovitz presumes. Already much of the work on molecular differentiation and on differential parasite susceptibility, as mentioned above, is being carried out by Riopelle and co-workers, at the Delta Regional Primate Research Center of Tulane University.

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### Simplicity and Clarity

. . . The writers of physical papers now use such an abbreviated jargon that, though a Master of Science in Physics from M.I.T., it is foolish for me to try to read them. When I came to the Smithsonian in 1895, Secretary S. P. Langley asked me to translate and abridge Röntgen's x-ray work for an article in the *Smithsonian Report*. He impressed on me that he desired articles clearly and simply written so "the country schoolmaster would understand and appreciate them."

I've always tried to follow that good advice.

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