

the nation need to be mobilized to cope with the major social problem of mental illness, it is essential that responsible committees have a broad viewpoint which encompasses diverse and varied approaches. Evaluation reports should be factual, supported by documentation, and not the medium for expression of sectarian opinion.

BURNESS E. MOORE
Committee on Public Information,
American Psychoanalytic Association,
1 East 57 Street, New York

Recording the Data

Taking exception to the point of view expressed in P. M. Newberne's letter (9 July, p. 137), I should like to voice my feelings in defense of shutterbugs at scientific meetings. The tendency at these gatherings seems to be to present as much data as possible in the brief time allotted. This necessitates the use of a number of slides full of information. The listener who desires to study the presented data in detail or at his leisure must either be an extremely rapid transcriber (and draftsman, in the case of graphs and diagrams), have a photographic memory, or be able to operate a camera.

In the printed material (such as abstracts), one is indeed fortunate to be provided with one or two equations, much less with tables and diagrams.

As for the author's not wanting his data used and quoted, presentation at a scientific meeting is hardly the way to keep them confidential.

Banning of cameras at scientific meetings would achieve little except inconvenience for those who are most interested in the presented material, as it would require them to copy the data longhand while missing much of the oral discussion or to wait, possibly for many months, until the report is published in full elsewhere.

RICHARD A. DURST
Department of Chemistry,
Pomona College, Claremont,
California

Thoreau and "Ecology": Correction

Since I was inadvertently responsible for confusing the record on the history of the word *ecology*, I would like now to try to set it straight once

Fig. 1. Part of a letter dated 1 January 1858 by Thoreau to his cousin George Thatcher. The word in question occurs at the beginning of the next-to-the-last line.

more. In 1958, with Carl Bode, I edited *The Correspondence of Henry David Thoreau* (New York Univ. Press), and in it I transcribed a sentence from a newly found letter of 1 January 1858 as reading, "Mr. Hoar is still in Concord, attending to Botany, Ecology, &c with a view to making his future residence in foreign parts more truly profitable to him" (see Fig. 1). In the issue of *Science* of 17 April 1959 (129, 992), Paul H. Oehser, quoting from the volume, pointed out that this use of the word *ecology* preceded the generally accepted coinage of the word by Ernst Haeckel by eight years.

Recently, Richard Eaton of Harvard University called my attention to the fact that Haeckel's word was *oecology*, and that American botanists did not adopt the simpler spelling until the Madison Botanical Congress of 23 August 1893. In the light of this new information, I reexamined photostats of the letter (the manuscript is in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library) and realized for the first time that, while at first glance the word seems obviously to be *Ecology*, it can without too much imagination be read as *Geology*. I also noted that several times in his *Journal* that winter Thoreau mentioned Hoar's interest in rocks and quarries. Under these circumstances I think I must assume that, since *geology* makes as much sense in the context as *ecology* does, *geology* must have been the word that Thoreau intended. I think we may once more assume that it was Haeckel who originated the word, in 1866—although, as

students of Thoreau will realize, even if Thoreau did not coin the word, he was unquestionably a pioneer in the science of ecology.

WALTER HARDING
State University College,
Geneseo, New York

Women—in Science or Out

I should like to add one item to the list of "tasks ahead" in Alice S. Rossi's article ("Women in science: Why so few?" 28 May, p. 1197): High school guidance teachers should be persuaded that a career in science or engineering will not ruin a girl's future. Several years ago, when I expressed a desire to enter M.I.T., I received from my high school adviser—a warm and friendly woman—a stunned and slightly horrified look. She wished to save me from my "immature desires" by getting me admitted to Bryn Mawr or Smith, where I could write poetry and avoid those brutal, masculine calculus courses if I wished. Well, I have an "unusually supportive" father such as Rossi mentions. I entered M.I.T., and in 1963 left it with a Bachelor of Science degree. But at last report my high school adviser was still doing her best to dissuade girls—even if they were excellent in high school mathematics, physics, and chemistry—from applying to schools oriented toward science.

FRANCES M. A. DYRO
School of Medicine,
University of Baltimore, Maryland