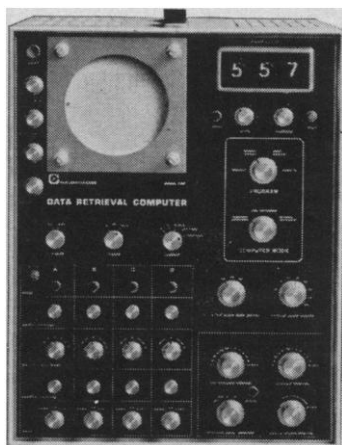


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to enlist the cooperation of scientists representing all shades of opinion. What is even more remarkable, the venture has consistently enjoyed the benevolent and essential cooperation of many individuals representing the scientific journals and societies. The IEG program, administered under the direction of E. C. Albritton, has shown itself to be unusually receptive to suggestions for improvement, reform, and change.

The American Association of Immunologists recently passed, at a business meeting held in April 1966, by a vote of 56 to 39, a resolution recommending that IEG No. 5 be discontinued. The officers announced this in a letter to *Science* and evaluated IEG's generally [see *Science* 153, 649 (1966)].

At the time of its submission to *Science*, a copy of the letter was sent to the IEG. The chairmen of the various IEG's pointed out to Sheldon Dray, the secretary of the association, that the letter contained many inaccuracies and unjustified assumptions. Yet no correction was made of any of these errors of facts, and the letter was published in virtually its original form. As chairmen of four of the IEG's, we feel that an answer to such criticism, point by point, would assign more value to the letter than it deserves. There may, indeed, be valid reasons for the dissatisfaction of some immunologists with the management of IEG No. 5. But to proceed from a specific complaint to an attack on IEG's generally, without detailed knowledge of the relevant facts, is unwarranted.

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The published form of the letter concerning Information Exchange Group No. 5 (12 Aug.) failed to make it clear that this letter was transmitted by Sheldon Dray in his official capacity of secretary-treasurer of the American Association of Immunologists. The let-

ter represents a report of discussions at the annual AAI business meeting. The original version, which was drafted and approved for publication by the Council of the Association of Immunologists, was somewhat shortened by the editors.—ED.

Ancient China

The legend for the cover of the 12 August issue errs (p. 671), as several readers have noted, in stating that "the miners were attached to winches by a safety line." The line is clearly attached to the basket at the miner's feet rather than to his neck.

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... The discussion of the meanings of the word "ch'i" in Sivin's book review ("A Chinese classic," p. 730) is interesting. The word also has the meaning of "anger." In the illustration Sung Ying-hsing used an expression for poison gas which definitely is not ambiguous. It is literally translated as "poison smoke gas," or possibly, "poison smoke essence."

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Cruelty in the Laboratory

Letters published in this section have at times revealed the concern of readers over the type of experiments conducted on laboratory animals. I would like to voice a marked distaste for the experiments on sleep deprivation ("Sleep deprivation and brain acetylcholine," 16 Sept., p. 1416). These strike me as objectionably cruel in view of the length (96 hours) and conditions of the procedure. It is to be hoped that no further experiments along this line will be pursued; the act of slowly depriving animals of an activity essential to life is comparable to inducing death by starvation or thirst. Research scientists, even if committed to objectivity, are still ethically bound to refrain from inflicting unnecessary suffering on other sentient beings, particularly in a situation not crucial to mankind.

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