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But his proposal is far less radical than that of St. Francis. He seems to suggest an enlightened despotism of man over the rest of nature instead of St. Francis' democracy of all creatures.

LYNN WHITE, JR. Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles 90024

... My only objection to White's presentation concerns the Sister Fire which he attributes to St. Francis of Assisi. Fire, for Francis, was Brother Fire, not Sister, at least in his *Cantico delle Creature*:

Laudato si', mi Signore, per frate focu per lo quale ennallumini la nocte, et ello e' bellu, et iucundu, et robustoso e forte.

While I embrace wholeheartedly Lynn White's proposal to set up a democracy of all God's creatures, I still favor the separation of the sexes.

Renato Baserga

562 Manor Road, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

White's stringent demonstration that today's ecological catastrophe results directly from the Judeo-Christian tradition can be expanded to include other catastrophies of similar or greater magnitude which occurred earlier in time. Martin [Nature 212, 339 (1966)] has discussed at some length the early overkills which destroyed 40 percent of the mammalian fauna in Africa and 70 percent in North America. These overkills, which took place, respectively, 50,000 and 12,000 years ago, clearly demonstrate that the Judeo-Christian tradition is considerably older than generally assumed.

CESARE EMILIANI SHALE NISKIN Institute of Marine Science, University of Miami, Miami, Florida 33149

Economics of Reprints

I would like to answer the question posed by Mary E. Clark of the University of Newcastle in her letter, "Reprints unlimited" (17 Feb.). She wondered, "How does one identify those who are really interested when no information comes on the [reprint request] card?" The answer is simple: Have your institution pay for as many reprints as you consider necessary. Don't be too modest—if you feel that 2000 or 3000 would be a convenient number—

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MIGUEL MOTA Department of Genetics, Estação Agronómica Nacional, Oeiras, Portugal

The Imperturbable Feline

Doty and Jones's report on learningset formation in various mammals (24 Mar., p. 1579) reminds me of a paper prepared for Science by W. A. Rhoads and F. Turner of the UCLA School of Nuclear Medicine and me on learning in cats. The paper was never submitted because, like UFO and Grant Swinger reports, it might have been misconstrued as trivial.

Three cats were observed for 12 months in three widely separate areas of Los Angeles. The cats were two American shorthairs and a cross-eyed pedigreed Siamese. Specifically, eartwitching was observed while the cats were dozing. Sounds which did or, more important, did not cause ear-twitching were noted. None of the three cats ever twitched to the following sounds: (i) wife shouting in kitchen, (ii) champagne cork popping, (iii) people falling into swimming pool, and (iv) approaching police sirens.

I have been unable to persuade my co-authors that we were walking in the footsteps of Pavlov.

H. W. PITTENGER Planning Research Corporation, Los Angeles, California 90024

12 MAY 1967



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