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### The Imperturbable Feline

Doty and Jones's report on learning-set 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.

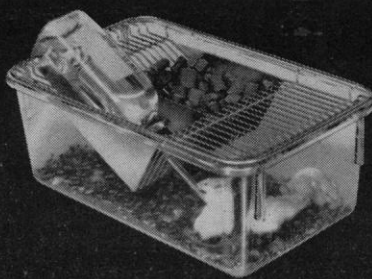
Three cats were observed for 12 months in three widely separate areas of Los Angeles. The cats were two American shorthairs and a cross-eyed pedigreed Siamese. Specifically, ear-twitching was observed while the cats were dozing. Sounds which did or, more important, did *not* cause ear-twitching were 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

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