Transient Fellows

Millett's letter (19 May) fails to consider the mobility of students and faculty. His table from National Science Foundation sources clearly shows that California, Massachusetts, and New York received 48.16 percent of the NSF fellowships while these states account for only 21.6 percent of the population. This analysis overlooks the fact that many recipients of these fellowships do not come from these states and do not remain there after their fellowships terminate. According to the Ohio State University Bulletin for July 1966, approximately 78 percent of the faculty of Arts and Sciences at Ohio State received their Ph.D. degrees from outside Ohio. Of these, about one in five was trained in California, Massachusetts, or New York. Thus Ohio is certainly benefiting extensively from Ph.D. programs elsewhere. About 84 percent of the graduate faculty at the University of Texas received their highest degrees out-of-state, and, of these, about 21 percent received their training in California, Massachusetts, or New York. These figures include both the sciences and nonsciences. The proportions are similar for the science faculties considered alone. I suggest that strict adherence to the practice of awarding grants and fellowships solely on merit will result in a reasonable distribution among states as the excellence of all universities continues to improve.

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Emotional Letters

I am dismayed, not by the causes and issues discussed, but at the amount of wild free emotion which is running around in your Letters columns. The 5 May issue contained letters by Iltis, Elmer, and Sager. Not one of these gentlemen adduces any data or new arguments to support his position, but merely emotes furiously. I presume that such letters will be received if any issues of importance are discussed, but must you publish them? In my opinion, even the Letters columns of a scientific journal should be restricted to those who think with their brains, not with their bowels.

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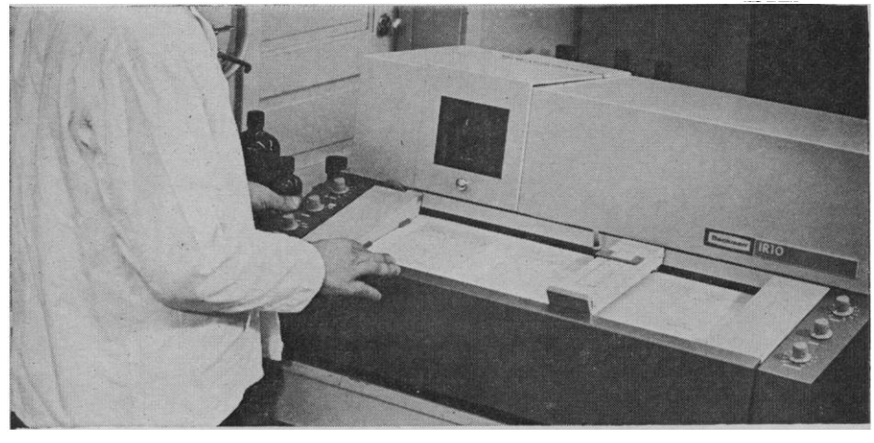
Usually, it doesn't matter much which brand you specify . . .

Unless you're a spectroscopist



It's not something we usually advertise, but there are a couple of other excellent brands of laboratory chemicals. However, some MC&B product lines are definitely superior to those offered by the competition. MC&B Spectroquality Solvents are an example. Spectroquality solvents are manufactured to higher quality standards using special techniques developed by MC&B. They are better for spectrophotometry and fluorometry. We'd appreciate it if you specify MC&B whenever you order any reagents—there's a special reason when you order solvents for spectrophotometry.

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