SCIENCE 18 August 1967 Vol. 157, No. 3790

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751

18 August 1967

Vol. 157, No. 3790



LETTERS	Oil Shale: A Vast Resource: C. H. Prien; J. W. Hand; Vietnam: Call for Scientific Help: E. C. Pollard; Salmon Semantics: L. Miller; M. Kroger	755
EDITORIAL	Justifying Academic Research	759
ARTICLES	Japanese Program on Earthquake Prediction: T. Hagiwara and T. Rikitake	761
	Animal Communication Signals: P. Marler	769
	Agricultural Production in the Developing Countries: G. F. Sprague	774
	How Much Research: K. S. Pitzer	779
NEWS AND COMMENT	Radio Astronomy: NSF Scrutinizing Proposals for Six Major Instruments	782
	Technology and the Environment: A New Concern on Capitol Hill	784
	Clocking Science: Army Lab Puts Meters on Research Equipment	786
	Aldabra: Biology May Lose A Unique Island Ecosystem	788
BOOK REVIEWS	 William Harvey's Biological Ideas and The Life of William Harvey, reviewed by W. Coleman; other reviews by J. Agassi, D. C. Krause, M. A. Rothman, J. R. Williamson, H. P. Gregor, K. F. Parker, P. R. Day, J. Friedel; Books Received 	792
REPORTS	Transformation of Gibbsite to Chlorite in Ocean Bottom Sediments: L. D. Swindale and PF. Fan	799
	Andesitic Volcanism and Seismicity around the Pacific: W. R. Dickinson and T. Hatherton	801
	Mutant Enzymatic and Cytological Phenotypes in Cultured Human Fibroblasts: J. G. Leroy and R. I. DeMars	804
	New Method for the Detection of Light Deflection by Solar Gravity: <i>I. I. Shapiro</i>	806

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Clear-Air Turbulence: Simultaneous Observations by Radar and Aircraft: J. J. Hicks et al.	808
Virus-Like Particles in Normal and Tumorous Tissues of Drosophila: H. Akai et al	810
Molecular and Thermal Origins of Fast Photoelectric Effects in the Squid Retina: W. A. Hagins and R. E. McGaughy	813
Transforming Activity in Both Complementary Strands of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> DNA: MD. Chilton	817
Antibody Formation: Stimulation by Polyadenylic and Polycytidylic Acids: W. Braun and M. Nakano	819
Deoxycytidylate and Deoxyguanylate Kinase Activity in Pneumococci after Exposure to Known Polyribonucleotides: W. Firshein, R. C. Benson, M. Sease	821
Ion Pairing of Magnesium Sulfate in Seawater: Determined by Ultrasonic Absorption: F. H. Fisher	823
Valyl-Transfer RNA: Role in Repression of the Isoleucine-Valine Enzymes in Escherichia coli: M. Freundlich	823
Flow Characteristics of Human Erythrocytes through Polycarbonate Sieves: M. I. Gregerson et al.	825
Blood Viscosity: Influence of Erythrocyte Deformation: S. Chien et al.	827
Blood Viscosity: Influence of Erythrocyte Aggregation: S. Chien et al.	829
Athens Variant of Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase: G. Stamatoyannopoulos et al.	831
Oxygen Tension as a Control Mechanism in Pollen Tube Rupture: R. G. Stanley and H. F. Linskens	833
Copulation and Sperm Induction by Normal and Palpless Male Linyphiid Spiders: J. S. Rovner	835
Brain Polysomes: Response to Environmental Stimulation: S. H. Appel, W. Davis, S. Scott	836
Technical Comments: Drinking Induced by Carbachol: Thirst Circuit or Ventricular Modification?: A Routtenberg; A. E. Fisher and R. A. Levitt; Extrusive Lunar Ring Structures?: W. K. Hartmann	838
Carbon Monoxide: J. R. Goldsmith; Calendar of Events	842

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Carbon Monoxide: J. R. Goldsmith; Calendar of Events

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COVER

Wheat is the world's second most important food crop. About 15 percent of the total supply is produced within the United States, where five varieties are grown. Each of these types has its maximum concentration in a different maximum concentration in a different geographical area; each fills a special commercial need; and each presents unique problems with respect to quality evaluation, resistance to disease and to insect infestation, and hazards of production. See page 774. [U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wash-ington, D.C.]

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to help in the decision on the value of bombing North Vietnam; operations research is a subject in which many can participate. We should be able to help in the decision as to the kind of area to be held if we are to hold an area. If we had briefings on the situation, we might be able to make wider suggestions as to techniques in the warfare in the Mekong Delta.

I would like a response from those who would be willing to give a percentage of their time to aid our effort. Please give your name, address, phone number, degree, broad area of competence, and whether willing to help organize or just participate. Please mark the envelope "V.N. Emergency." It is not right that I, at my relatively advanced age, should be the person to organize this but I am happy to be one that might help start it. . . . I will collect the names and I will also report results to Science in 4 weeks and I will also inform President Johnson. Since I have very little help to work on this, please keep your answers compact.

ERNEST C. POLLARD Department of Biophysics, 618 Life Sciences Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park 16802

Salmon Semantics

The salmon industry as well as the gourmets may be pleased if the salmonella bugs are renamed "sanella" ("News in Brief," 14 July, p. 172); but not so the people of West Germany who eat "Sanella, die gute" (oleomargarine) on their daily bread.

L. MILLER

595 McAfee Street, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30313

. . . The good citizens of Washington State may be starting a trend with their desire to protect the salmon industry by simply adjusting nomenclature. What if a lobby of the persons named Bruce were to ask for a revision of the term brucellosis? What if the fruit industry were to initiate the removal of beriberi (the name only, not the disease)? I see no end to such a trend when I come across words like mongolism, cypridopathy or water moccasin. . . .

MANFRED KROGER College of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University, University Park



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as soon as they are collected, and 10 more, and 10 more, and 10 more _______ O. As long as empty test tubes in handsome red polypropylene racks (holding 10 each) are supplied on the right, the same may be removed from the left — with enclosed fractions, of course. Twenty (20) racks can be put in the apparatus for the period of unattended run. Write **GILSON MEDICAL ELECTRONICS**, Middleton, Wisconsin, for data on the

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Justifying Academic Research

As a nation we often behave as if we are not sure that we will survive the next 6 months. Urgent short-term or emotion-laden issues commanding the headlines compete successfully for federal funds, while programs essential to the long-term life of the nation are neglected. In such circumstances, academic scientists must not fail to remind the public of the many enduring benefits to be derived from support of research.

The public is aware that practical applications have arisen from past research and are likely to arise from future research, but scientists would do well to continue to furnish examples of the relation of research and beneficial applications. Another need is to help the public explore the cultural aspects of scientific knowledge. Most humans hunger to understand the universe about them, and many are willing to make considerable efforts to satisfy their curiosity. Thus the museums of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington draw large crowds. The observatory at Mount Palomar is besieged with visitors, and the Christmas science lectures sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science are well attended.

Leadership in the creation of knowledge brings great national prestige. When a conspicuous contribution is recognized with a Nobel prize, a nation's stature increases. The United States has been receiving about half of the Nobel prizes, and most of the winners do their research at universities.

A serious failure of academic scientists has been in educating the public with regard to the role of scholarly inquiry in the universities. The necessity to do so became acute a few years ago. At that time a number of articles in major publications asserted that research efforts by professors were destructive to the teaching functions of universities. Critics neglected to mention that often the most incompetent professors in science departments are those who do no research. The administrations of many colleges and universities quietly responded to the criticisms by making clear to their faculties the importance attached to the teaching function. However, the public is largely unaware of these steps, and an impression remains that good teaching and research are incompatible. This is an incorrect view.

With science evolving rapidly, a major task for professors is to keep up with developments in their field. The full-time instructor who presents material that is out of date defrauds his students in at least three ways: He fails to render proper guidance with respect to subject material, he fails to set high standards of scholarship, and he fails to inspire enthusiasm for learning. To be a good teacher of science, a professor must be intellectually virile. He must be part of the creative enterprise. The most practical means of keeping current with new developments is to participate personally in research activity. The sharply disciplining nature of cold-eyed peer evaluation induces research scientists to work hard at creative endeavor. As part of that effort they try to achieve awareness and understanding of new discoveries in their branch of science. Their students are beneficiaries.

A final role of academic research is in the graduate training of scientists for industry, government, and academia. If good basic research is not conducted in the universities, how will the nation obtain the elite scientists so essential to modern civilization?—P. H. ABELSON

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