

Mendel's Memorabilia

Dobzhansky's interesting review "Looking Back at Mendel's Discovery" (Book Reviews, 23 June, p. 1588) covers six different books. Five of these are treated in some detail but one, *Iconographia Mendeliana*, is only mentioned and the reader is not made aware of its unusual nature and value. I should like to call further attention to this volume, which was published in 1965 by the Moravian Museum, Brno, Czechoslovakia. It consists of reproductions in black and white and in colors of a great variety of "pictorial and written documents characterizing the life and work of Gregor Johann Mendel," with explanatory notes in English and Czech.

The volume begins with a page of the birth registry at Heinzendorf in which Mendel's birth and baptism are entered and ends with a modern aerial view of the former Augustinian monastery in Old Brno. It includes pictures of the educational institutions which Mendel attended, of his sisters, of the members of the monastery, and of its refectory, library, and other general rooms. It shows the letter by Abbott Napp to his superior bishop in which he states that Mendel has been appointed substitute teacher at the Znaim High School and that, while he lives a virtuous religious life, he is not too well suited for churchly duties. It reproduces the remarkable group photograph of 1862 in front of the Grand Hotel in Paris with Mendel's broad forehead standing out among the many others. There are facsimiles of manuscript and of printed pages from his publications, of his only remaining experimental record page, of his first letter to Nägeli, and of part of a letter by Nägeli to Mendel, and pictures of Mendel's microscopes, his eyeglasses, his portable sundial, a fancy tablecloth with his embroidered initials, his bee house, the obituary notice, and the death certificate.

The 120 items of the *Iconographia* will give pleasure and insight to all interested in genetics and the history of science in general. This book deserves a place in many libraries, public and personal.

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It seems worth noting that in November 1966, there appeared the first number of *Folia Mendeliana*, a serial publication which is dedicated to the

dissemination of new facts about the founder of genetics. The editor is V. Orel, chairman of the Gregor Mendel department of genetics in the Moravian Museum in Brno, Czechoslovakia. Eight countries are represented on the publication committee and three of its 13 members are in the United States.

In their introduction of the new journal, the editor and J. Jelinek, director of the Moravian Museum, say:

The systematic activities of the staff of the newly established Gregor Mendel Department of Genetics in the Moravian Museum enable us to throw some new light upon Mendel's life and work. We are now convinced that with the support of foreign scientific workers we shall find some new documents and add to our knowledge of Mendel.

Apart from an account of the centennial celebrations in Brno in 1965, the first issue of *Folia Mendeliana* carries four articles about Mendel, three in German, one in English. One deals with his efforts to write poetry during his student years. Another tells of his meeting with a famous breeder of bees, and a third tells of his effort to find mathematical laws in the derivation of names. The fourth discusses the extent to which Mendel's work was known before its rediscovery in 1900.

Orel has informed me that, with the help of Weiling of Bonn, new documents were found in 1966, and that reports on these, along with other material, will appear in the second issue of *Folia Mendeliana*, which is to appear in 1967.

F. B. HUTT

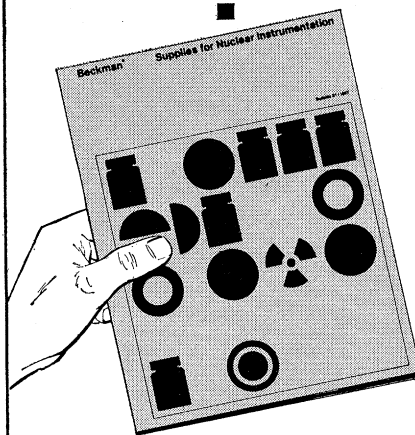
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Biochemists' Job Information

Several months ago I offered to serve as a one-man clearing house for job information in biochemistry (Letters, 28 Oct. 1966). I offered to provide, free of charge, a list of available positions I had compiled to anyone who sent me descriptive information on one or more positions he knew about but did not want. That way my original list could grow and remain fairly current. Every contributor would receive more than he gave, thus increasing his opportunities for rational choice. I can report on the outcome of this experiment with "job hunting by chain let-

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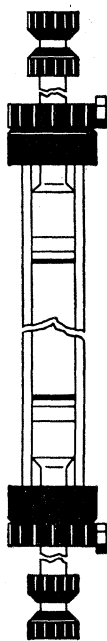
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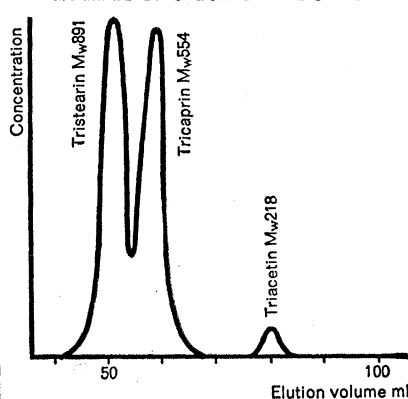
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ter," lately known as the Biochemists' Job Information Pool.

Nearly 200 positions were sent in. Several were contributed by employers. Contributions came from nearly all academic levels, from graduate students to deans, but most were from people at the postdoctoral level. Probably no more than 75 people participated directly, but I feel certain the lists were seen and used by many more. I judge the experiment a qualified success. I observed that the system needs constant promotion and explanation. Advertising space in scientific journals would insure its smooth operation.

I have tried to interest graduate students in taking over the service, since it is mostly for their benefit and because I have had my fun with it, but most seem to prefer to rely heavily on patronage. It may be that they consider the quality of the leads given them by their sponsor at graduation as a sort of final grade, and grades are important if one has few other criteria for judging his worth.

Still, I commend this service to any group of graduate students or postdocs who want to take it over, perfect it, and make it permanent in their department. All it takes is a small amount of time, access to the departmental copying machine, and a cooperative spirit. I would hate to see employers in control of it. The idea is to advertise their positions in writing whether they want them advertised or not. I am ending my part in this venture because I do not believe it should remain in the control of one person. I only wanted to see if it works, which it does.

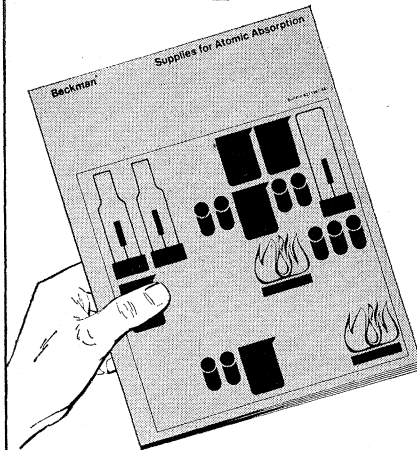
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Worthiness of Wit

In contrast to Bowne (Letters, 7 July) I am encouraged and heartened to see the human touch, emotion, in a scientific journal. Of course, there are places from which emotion must be edited, but I have yet to see any misplaced emotion in *Science*. The monotonous format of customary scientific literature should not be that of *Science*, for it is a magazine as well as a journal, and a magazine must have some wit to spark its readership. Allowing a little fun in

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