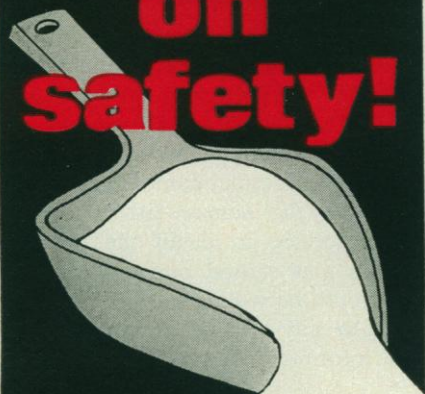


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figures and tables, and type composition and correction. All the other costs—of printing, binding, and mailing multiple copies—are recouped from other sources of income to the journal (subscriptions, sale of back issues, and advertising). Now the costs of producing a single microfilm copy are the same as those of setting a single copy in type: reviewing, editing, and copyediting costs are unchanged, and one needs, instead of a skilled compositor, a skilled typist (with multitudinous special attachments to cope with the complexities of scientific work) plus a microfilmer. Hence the page charges would be unchanged.

Incidentally, it should be pointed out that several leading journals are now available in microfilm or microfiche as well as in the conventional form. They remain cumbersome to read or consult.

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2. M. Scal, *Sch. Publ.* **1**, 71 (1969).

Deterioration of Teaching

In describing the hue and cry over a retrenchment in support of higher education and science, the ex-advisors apparently did not mention that the quality of the teaching staff in higher education has been deteriorating for some time ("Recession in science: ex-advisors warn of long-term effects," *1 May*, p. 555). The decline in quality—measured by the percentage of full-time senior teaching staff with the doctorate—set in several years ago, long before talk of curtailing the support of graduate education.

A 1963–64 study of James F. Rogers (*1*) showed 49 percent of the full-time senior instructional staff held the doctorate. A 1966 survey by R. Beazley (*2*) showed the percentage had declined to 43.7. Preliminary findings of another survey indicate it may have dipped to 42 percent in 1967.

Increasing numbers of freshmen students are enrolling in 2-year institutions where only about 10 percent of the teaching faculty held the doctorate some 10 years ago and where only 6 percent held the degree in 1966. About 35 percent of the fall 1969 first time enrollees entered 2-year institutions, a percentage that is rising.

The percentage of full-time instructional staff with the doctorate is an inadequate measure of the quality of education, but at present it is about all we have. It is directly relevant to the need to produce more doctorates with the view to assuming teaching responsibilities, particularly in the burgeoning institutions below the rank of universities.

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1. J. F. Rogers, *Staffing American Colleges and Universities*, Report OE-53028 (U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C., 1967).
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Biology Editors' Definition

An ad hoc Committee on a Proposed Definition of a Primary Publication appointed by the Council of Biology Editors has developed the following definition which was adopted by a vote of the full membership of CBE on 23 May 1968:

An acceptable primary publication must be the first disclosure containing sufficient information to enable peers (1) to assess observations, (2) to repeat experiments, and (3) to be susceptible to sensory perception, essentially permanent, available to the scientific community without restriction, and available for regular screening by one or more of the major recognized secondary services [e.g., currently, *Biological Abstracts*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *Index Medicus*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Bibliography of Agriculture* (since discontinued), etc.] in the United States and similar facilities in other countries.

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Progress in Desalination

Gerard (Letters, 20 Mar.) presents a distorted picture of the potential of desalting when he states that only 5 percent of all operating plants show costs below \$1 per 1000 gallons. It is not the *number* of plants that is pertinent but the date of construction and the size, since costs have gone down both with improved technology and