

Member States of ELDO, or, in the event of the dissolution of ELDO, to former Members of ELDO or to any grouping of former Members”.

Yours faithfully,

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### Dissemination of Scientific Information

SIR,—In his letter entitled “Scientists Informed” (*Nature*, 220, 1056; 1968) Mr Hyde concludes that it is necessary to develop a computer and associated software, specifically for information retrieval.

He also concludes that present attempts (presumably without exception) in this field are a failure. I could cite a number of places where practising scientists would disagree with him. For example an SDI system (ASCA) has recently been evaluated at the National Physical Laboratory; in consequence it is being introduced more widely throughout that laboratory. In this system over 2,000 of the world’s prime scientific and technological journals are searched on behalf of a subscriber in accordance with his personal instructions (profile). The subscriber receives a weekly list describing articles of interest to him.

If an organization appoints a man to implement an entirely new system for a specific purpose he will probably review what exists, but is likely to be overcome by the exciting prospect of creating the “ideal” system. He will need the attributes of a scientist, business man, computer expert, politician, budgetary controller and fund raiser.

Implementation means that the project must be treated as a properly costed and scheduled development programme, must be “sold” to, and must also be used by the appropriate section of the scientific community.

It will not be a spur to efficiency if the organizers know, in the likely event of over-expenditure, that they will be able to conceal development and overhead costs. The users will have to pay for the service, directly or indirectly. To establish cost-effectiveness they should know whether they will be called on to subsidize the service through subscriptions or taxation, or whether the preparational costs will be amortized with the running costs.

These problems and costs, however, may be greatly mitigated if a different view is taken. As Mr Hyde says, let us continue with research—hopefully to fulfill the 25 year old prophesy of Vannevar Bush—but let it also be appreciated that it is perfectly feasible today to get off the ground quickly with an effective system at an acceptable cost.

Hardware is available and a specific data base may be created by capitalizing on or combining (merging) existing files or by using an existing system as it stands. This is the kind of realistic approach which has been adopted at some places in Europe—for example at Datacentralen in Copenhagen and at the Tekniska Hogskolan in Stockholm.

We can innovate for tomorrow, but also adapt for today.

Yours faithfully,

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### Life in the Big Cities

SIR,—An article in *Nature* (221, 1085; 1969) reasonably questions the validity of ring roads as a remedy for jams of radially moving traffic.

Should not suspicion be directed also at one-way traffic

schemes? Any arbitrary interference with the concept that the optimum road cost economy is achieved by the identity of vehicle mileage with the minimum point to point mileage requires potent justification.

In a word, in any circumstances where vehicles are attempting to move X yards from A to B and the direct course is denied by one-way circuitry the road/vehicle occupancy cost may be multiplied 2, 3 or 4 times.

Yours faithfully,

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**ERRATUM.** In the article “Reversible Activation of Lysosomes by Dimethyl Sulphoxide” by Misch and Misch (*Nature*, 221, 862; 1969), the last sentence of paragraph six should have read “The data also indicate a greater loss of enzyme during washing . . .”.

**ERRATUM.** In the course of editing the article “Native and Denatured DNA of Phage T3 and of *E. coli* B as Templates for RNA Polymerase” by Cheong and Chargaff (221, 1144; 1969) the sense of the fourth paragraph on page 1145 was seriously changed. The passage beginning with the second sentence should read: “Of course, the reconstruction of normal conditions cannot be complete. The DNA of *E. coli* probably exists in the cell as a much larger molecular species<sup>11</sup> than can be isolated, whereas T3 DNA (molecular weight  $23 \times 10^6$ )<sup>12,13</sup> is presumably nearly intact. Interpretation also is made difficult by the close similarity in nucleotide composition of T3 and *E. coli* DNA<sup>4,14</sup>.”

**ERRATUM.** In the article “Two 3’-Terminal Sequences in Satellite Tobacco Necrosis Virus RNA” by Wimmer and Reichmann (221, 1122; 1969), the base pairing indicated in paragraph five on page 1125 is incorrect as it stands. It should read:

. . . GpApCpUpApCpCpCoh  
. . . UpGpApp

**ERRATUM.** In the article “Lymphocyte *in vitro* Cytotoxicity: Specific Release of Lymphotoxin-like Materials from Tuberculin-sensitive Lymphoid Cells” by Granger *et al.* (221, 1155; 1969), two of the references were incorrectly renumbered. On page 1156, references “8” and “9” on lines 24 and 25 in the right-hand column should have been “7” and “8”.

**ERRATUM.** In the article “Unexpected High Incidence of Tumours in Thymectomized Mice treated with Antilymphocytic Globulin and *Mycobacterium leprae*” by Gaugas *et al.* (221, 1033; 1969), the fourth line of the third paragraph should have read “fed on pellet diet, 41b”, not “4 pounds”. Only one of the authors, F. C. Chesterman, is from the Division of Experimental Biology and Virology, Imperial Cancer Research Fund. J. M. Gaugas is, with the other authors, from the National Institute for Medical Research.

**ERRATUM.** In the article “Molecular Determinants of Obligate Psychrophily” by Malcolm (221, 1031; 1969), an error was made in the legend to Table 1. The specific activities quoted should have been “ $\mu$ moles of amino-acid charged/h/mg of protein”.

**ERRATUM.** In the article “Graphite Formation from Low Temperature Pyrolysis of Methane over some Transition Metal Surfaces” by S. D. Robertson (221, 1044; 1969) the second sentence of the first paragraph should have read “These carbonaceous products, however, begin to show a significant degree of three-dimensional layer ordering only at deposition temperatures of around 2,000° C to 2,500° C (refs. 3–5)”. The last sentence of the fourth paragraph should have read “The exact correspondence of all the observed  $(h, k, \bar{h} + k, 0)$  and  $(h, k, \bar{h} + k, 1)$  reflexions is self-evident and thus confirms the structural equivalence of these carbons”.