

University News : **Birmingham**

DR S. H. HOLLINGDALE, at present head of the Department of Mathematics in the Royal Aircraft Establishment, has been appointed director of computer services.

Manchester

DR F. H. SUMNER, at present senior lecturer in computer science, has been appointed professor of computing science in succession to Professor D. B. G. Edwards, who has been appointed to the ICT chair of computer engineering.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MR RICHARD G. MILLS has been appointed to the new position of director of information processing services, a post which is to provide co-ordination between all computer facilities in the institute.

Miami

DR R. G. BADER, head of the Division of Oceanography at the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, University of Hawaii, has been appointed associate director of the University of Miami Institute of Marine Sciences.

Ulster

DR M. F. GRUNDON, at present reader in organic chemistry at the Queen's University of Belfast, has been appointed professor of chemistry.

University College of Townsville, Queensland

DR C. BURDON-JONES, senior lecturer in marine biology in the University College of North Wales and deputy director (marine biology) of the Marine Science Laboratories, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, has been appointed to the chair of marine biology.

Appointments

DR JOHN M. HILL has been appointed chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Dr. Hill is at present member for production of the authority, with direct responsibility for the authority's Production Group. He succeeds Lord Penney, who is retiring in order to take up the rectorship of Imperial College.

MR M. V. TRACEY, at present leader of the CSIRO Wheat Research Unit, has been appointed chief of the CSIRO Division of Food Preservation, in succession to Dr J. R. Vickery.

DR RONALD S. PAUL has been appointed deputy director of Battelle-Northwest.

MR T. A. MANGELSDORF, a retired oil company executive from New Kent, Virginia, Dr C. G. Hurst, jun., a speech and hearing expert from Washington, DC, and Dr J. E. Harris, an ophthalmologist and university professor from Minneapolis, have been appointed to serve four-year terms on the US National Advisory Neurological Diseases and Blindness Council.

Meetings

SIXTH International Congress of Allergology, November 5-11, Montreal (Dr Samuel O. Freedman, Chairman, Organizing Committee, VI International Congress of Allergology, 1390 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal 25).

GLOBAL Impacts of Applied Microbiology, November 6-11, Addis Ababa (Dr Aklilu Lemma, Dean, Faculty of Science, Haile Selassie I University, P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

ENGINEER in Management, November 10-12, Scarborough (Mr B. Taylor, c/o Greenwood and Batley, Ltd., Armley Road, Leeds 12).

ERRATUM. Throughout the communication "In vitro Increase in Virus Infectivity", by C. E. Yarwood (page 269 of this issue), potassium sulphate should read potassium sulphite.

ERRATUM. In the communication "Late Pliocene-Pleistocene Stratigraphy in Deep Sea Cores from the South-central North Atlantic", by W. A. Berggren, J. D. Phillips, A. Bertels and D. Wall (page 253 of this issue), reference 14 should be inserted at the end of the third paragraph.

CORRIGENDUM. In the communication "Possible Instability in the Self-closure Phenomenon in Gravitational Collapse" by W. Israel (*Nature*, 216, 148; 1967), equation (3) should read

$$\lambda = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{-m}^{+m} (R^2 - 2Rx \cos \theta + x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} dx \quad (3)$$

CORRESPONDENCE**Pink Spots Galore**

SIR,—I am replying to a recent comment entitled "Pink Spots Galore"¹, which is a discussion of studies initiated in my laboratory. As a result of those studies, we reported, in 1962, that 3,4-dimethoxyphenethylamine (DMPEA) is a constituent of urine from schizophrenic patients^{2,3}. The writer states that "hats were thrown in the air" when these findings were reported, but that they have now been contradicted by the study of Boulton *et al.*⁴. In point of fact, I believe that reference to our publications will demonstrate that we have made a deliberate, and rather successful, attempt to prevent undue optimism or elation in regard to our work. It has been our attitude from the outset that these findings, while of considerable interest, may or may not be relevant to the aetiology and pathogenesis of schizophrenia. I do not feel that any additional findings made thus far, either positive or negative, have been sufficient to justify an alteration in this point of view.

The title of the editorial suggests that there are many compounds producing "pink spots". This is, of course, true and was pointed out by us in our first publication about this so-called "pink spot" test⁵. This test was developed by us to detect certain phenethylamines and for nothing more. We went to great effort to identify the compound peculiar to schizophrenics (DMPEA) in order to avoid misunderstandings among various workers and to prevent ambiguous references to chromatographic "spots". We would therefore recommend strongly that the term "pink spot", which has come into use despite our efforts, be dropped and that each investigator should properly characterize and identify any compounds with which he is concerned.

It is my opinion that Boulton's conclusion that DMPEA is not present in urine of schizophrenic patients is incorrect, and that his inability to identify this material results from deficiencies in the methods that he used⁶. However, not all divergent scientific findings can be reconciled at every point in time. It is my hope that each of the investigators involved in these studies will continue along his own lines, even though all of the results may not be consonant at the present time.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD J. FRIEDHOFF

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¹ *Nature*, 215, 115 (1967).

² Friedhoff, A. J., and Van Winkle, Elnora, *Nature*, 194, 867 (1962).

³ Friedhoff, A. J., and Van Winkle, Elnora, *J. Nervous Mental Dis.*, 135, 550 (1962).

⁴ Boulton, Alan A., Pollitt, R. J., and Majer, J. R., *Nature*, 215, 132 (1967).

⁵ Friedhoff, A. J., and Van Winkle, Elnora, *J. Chromatog.*, 11, 272 (1963).

⁶ Friedhoff, A. J., *Lancet*, ii, 1188 (1966).