

Moonshot

SIR,—I was appalled to read in *Newsweek* (December 30) that “urine (from the astronauts) is dumped overboard through a special vent”.

The week-long extraterrestrial flight of Apollo 8 could have provided a heaven-sent clue to the origin of circadian rhythms if the samples had been collected and analysed for excretory rates of electrolytes, hormones, etc.

While evidence of intrinsicness is accumulating from isolation studies, abnormal daily routines, etc., this was a unique opportunity to study biorhythms in an environment free of any conceivable influence from the Earth than ever before.

One is driven to assume that the medical attendants were clinically rather than scientifically orientated.

Yours faithfully,

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University News

Dr D. M. Watt has been appointed to the chair of restorative dentistry in the **University of Edinburgh**.

Professor Maurice Freedman has been appointed to the chair of anthropology tenable at the **London School of Economics and Political Science**.

Appointments

Mr H. Peter Jost, K. S. Paul Products Group, has been appointed a member of the **Advisory Council on Technology**.

Lord Crowther has been appointed the first chancellor of the Open University (Britain's university of the air) which is expected to receive its charter this spring.

Dr Norman Franklin and **Dr Hans Kronberger** have been appointed members of the UKAEA; Dr Franklin is made member of production and Dr Kronberger member for reactor development.

The following have been appointed vice-presidents of the **Royal Society** for the year ending November 30, 1969: **Sir Frederick Bawden**, Rothamsted Experimental Station; **Professor M. J. Lighthill**, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; **Professor B. Katz**, University College, London; **Sir Harold Thompson**, Physical Chemistry Laboratory, Oxford; **Mr G. B. R. Feilden**, British Standards Institution; **Professor F. C. Frank**, University of Bristol; **Sir Charles Goodeve**, British Iron and Steel Research Association; **Sir John McMichael**, British Postgraduate Medical Federation.

Announcements

THE Royal Society has awarded the **Rumford Medal** to **Dr Dennis Gabor** for his contributions in the field of optics and his discovery of holography.

CORRIGENDUM. In the communication “Production of Hydrogen by Green Photosynthetic Bacteria (*Chloropseudomonas*)” by E. N. Kondratieva and I. N. Gogotov (*Nature*, 221, 83; 1969) the columns in Table 2 were wrongly labelled. The left-hand column should be “Light” and the right-hand should be “Dark”.

ERRATUM. In the article “Factor Stimulating Transcription by RNA Polymerase” by Richard R. Burgess *et al.* (*Nature*, 221, 43; 1969) the fourth sentence of the third paragraph should read: “Using the same method through the DEAE cellulose step, J. J. D. and E. K. F. B., from Rutgers, purified the enzyme by binding it to a cellulose column containing immobilized T4 DNA and eluting the bound enzyme with high salt”. The second sentence of the first paragraph on page 46 should read “We are investigating whether the enzyme and factor are in rapid equilibrium with complex and whether factor is released for re-use in other complexes by the act of initiation”. In the legend to Fig. 2, $E_{280m}^{1\%} = 6.6$ should read $E_{280m\mu}^{1\%} = 6.6$, and the last but one subheading on page 45 should read “Factor is not a Nuclease”.

ERRATUM. In the communication “Mice reared with Rat Aunts: Effects on Plasma Corticosterone and Open Field Activity” by Victor H. Denenberg *et al.* (*Nature*, 221, 73; 1969) the seventh paragraph should read: “In the first experiment the procedure of priming rat aunts required elaborate scheduling to assure that they had received 6 days of experience with a rat litter before being placed with a 4 day old mouse litter. Therefore, in the second experiment nine non-lactating Purdue-Wistar female rats were placed with pregnant Swiss-Albino mice approximately 3 days before expected parturition, while nine other pregnant mice were randomly assigned to the control group”. The last sentence of the tenth paragraph should read: “This was true even though the rat-aunt preparations differed in the two experiments”. The fifth sentence of the last paragraph should read: “Thus, the rat aunt preparation has the same qualitative effect on open field activity as the rat mother preparation, but to a somewhat lesser degree”. In the second sentence of the thirteenth paragraph “rats” should read “mice”.

International Meetings

January 22, **Moisture Measurement in Solid Materials**, Harwell (Mr C. G. Clayton, Isotope Research Division, Wantage Research Laboratory, AERE, Wantage, Berkshire).

January 29–30, **Structure and Function of the Mammalian Motor End-plate in Health and Disease**, London (Dr J. Hume Adams, Department of Pathology, Western Infirmary, Glasgow, W1).

March 24–25, **Laser Safety**, Cincinnati (Dr Leon Goldman, International Laser Safety Conference, c/o Laser Laboratory, Children's Hospital Research Foundation of the Medical Center, University of Cincinnati, Elland and Bethesda Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45229).

March 26–27, **Maintenance Developments in Process Industries**, Durham (Mr R. S. Glynn, Conference Department, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1).

March 26–28, **Biomathematics and Computer Science in the Life Sciences**, Houston (Office of the Dean, The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Division of Continuing Education, PO Box 20367, Houston, Texas 77025).

June 8–12, **Health Physics Society meeting**, Pittsburgh (W. E. Piros, Atomic Equipment Division, PO Box 217, Cheswick, Pennsylvania 15024, USA).

July 2–4, **Lasers in Medicine**, London (Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

July 7–8, **Biomedical Polymers**, California Institute of Technology (Dr Mitchel Shen, Science Center, North American Rockwell, Thousand Oaks, California 91360, USA).