EMPLOYMENT

What Professionals Do

ALMOST 300,000 scientists are listed in the Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel prepared by the National Science Foundation. This does not represent the total scientific manpower of the United States, because a number of those to whom questionnaires were sent did not reply. It is believed that the distribution by disciplines (see Table) is not affected by those who failed to reply. The median salary of the scientists was $13,200, with self-employed scientists the best paid (median $18,000). The same median was reported by the best-paid industrial scientists, who were economists.

More than one third of the sample (37 per cent) had doctorates, and 29 per cent had masters degrees. Although the Federal Government employed only 10 per cent of the scientists directly, 43 per cent of them were engaged in work supported by Federal Government funds. One third were working in research, with 15 per cent in basic research and 13 per cent in applied research. Geographically, the states of California and New York had the greatest numbers of scientists, 31,000 each, and six other states had more than 12,000—Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts.

US SCIENTISTS IN 1968

	Number	Per cent
Registered scientists	297,942	100
Men	270,109	91
Women	27,833	9
Chemistry	93,788	31
Earth and Marine Science	23,746	8
Atmosphere and Space	5,745	2
Physics	32,491	11
Mathematics	24,477	8
Computer Sciences	6,972	2
Agricultural Science	12,740	4
Biological Science	46,183	16
Psychology	23,077	8
Statistics	2,639	1
Economics	11,510	4
Sociology	6,638	2
Political Science	5,176	2
Anthropology	1,219	
Linguistics	1,541	1

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Nature is intended to be a journal which can be read with pleasure by scientists in all kinds of work, not always academic. For this reason, it is necessary that the editorial staff should continually pay particular attention to the way in which contributions are presented. In practice, this means that attempts are made to modify the language in which manuscripts are prepared (which means that authors are consulted if substantial changes are in prospect).

The following table is intended simply as a guide to the ways in which language can be simplified not merely without loss but usually with great profit. The examples are taken from *Nature*, which shows that the practice frequently falls short of intention.

As submitted	*Edited version*
Taking a range of evidence into account we incline to the view that	On balance we believe that
Little information is available	Little is known
Effect their solubilization	Dissolve them
We are presently developing techniques to carry out a more precise and comprehensive study of these systems with the aim of solving these problems	We are looking into this further
Placed adjacent to	Put next to
Reactions having different characteristics were observed	Different reactions occurred
An attempt was made to obtain some information as to how	We tried to find out how
The present author	I
Presumably attributable to the fact that	Presumably because
The heart of the problem of constructing models lies in the problem of constructing good theories, as models are simply formal representations of such theories	The basis of a model is the theory it represents
The starting point for this investigation was the fact	It is known