

"hiving-off" operation, we think the ministry should first exercise some "accountable management" as proposed by Fulton. It is only too clear to us that they have ignored the needs of the inspectorate and British archaeology.

Yours faithfully,

T. H. PROFITT

The Institution of Professional
Civil Servants,
Northumberland Street,
London WC2.

Synthetic Foodstuffs

SIR,—I wish to clarify the reference to the work of the Tropical Products Institute in the summary of the Parliamentary Question which appeared in your issue of December 28 (220, 1271; 1968).

This institute is not, in fact, currently carrying out any work on novel marine sources of proteins. However, one of our projects (Tropical Products Institute, Annual Report 1967) does concern East African freshwater fish and involves study of means of preservation and improvement of quality.

Yours faithfully,

P. C. SPENSLEY

Tropical Products Institute,
56-62 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1.

Probability and Prejudice

SIR,—Professor Lindley (*Nature*, 221, 594; 1969) is, like Matthew, entitled to his opinion, but I do not see that his comments in any way dispose of my criticisms. First of all, perhaps I could protest at the irrelevant remarks in his first paragraph, which includes an inaccurate reporting of what I quoted Professor Maynard Smith as saying, namely, that the problem "yields at once to common sense or to Bayes's theorem". By omitting the phrase "to common sense or" Professor Lindley distorts, quite unfairly, the implication in my own remarks.

To come now to the problem, this is unsatisfactory partly because of the third-person reporting in it of Matthew's opinions as data to be used in any numerical evaluations. These data included Matthew's assessments of his own probability of execution as changing from $2/3$ to $1/2$, so that he had a right to feel happier, in particular if it could be shown that he was being consistent. Professors Maynard Smith and Lindley apparently think he had no such right, but my claim that this view "may legitimately be questioned" was illustrated by my demonstrating how Matthew could be consistent in his assessments. Lindley introduces the further assumption that $r=1/3$ "as a reasonable value", and concludes that P , the probability of the jailer naming Mark if both Mark and Luke are to be executed, would then have to be 1. Dismissing this possibility, Lindley rejects the consistency of Matthew's assessments. Even if I accept Lindley's value $r=1/3$ (which Matthew may not have done), Matthew has, however, still a "right to feel happier" on the weaker basis that his second assessment should be at any rate $<2/3$, which leads to the condition $P > 1/2$. I see nothing extraordinary in such a belief by Matthew about P , especially if he recalls the order of precedence of Mark and Luke in the New Testament. (The jailer may not be a Christian, but Matthew may be unaware of this.)

Yours sincerely,

M. S. BARTLETT

Department of Biomathematics,
Pusey Street,
Oxford.

Mr Short's Shibboleth

SIR,—Your editorial "Mr Short's Shibboleth" (*Nature*, 221, 298; 1969) criticizing arrangements to teach religion in schools is in part based on the relevance of the Old Testament to contemporary situations. The useful supplement to this document which was later issued has a more up-to-date approach.

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK FALLON

4 Worcester Road,
London SW19.

University News

Dr F. P. Lisowaki, University of Birmingham, has been appointed professor of anatomy at the **University of Hong Kong**.

Dr A. Donnachie, University of Glasgow, has been appointed to an additional chair of theoretical physics at the **University of Manchester**.

Announcements

Sir Alexander Haddow is to retire on March 31 from his directorship of the Chester Beatty Research Institute. He will continue his researches as professor of experimental pathology.

The **Scientific Medal**, awarded by the **Zoological Society of London**, has been won by **Dr G. A. Horridge**, director of the Gatty Marine Laboratory, University of St Andrews, in recognition of his work in zoology; a second Scientific Medal has been awarded to **Dr M. Wells** of the University of Cambridge. The **Clough Award** of the Edinburgh Geological Society has been awarded to **Dr M. J. O'Hara**, Grant Institute of Geology, University of Edinburgh, in recognition of his mineralogical and petrological studies in the rocks of the Scottish Highlands.

The **Macromolecular Research Centre** has recently been established at the University of Michigan. Its objectives are to provide intensive graduate and postdoctoral research and education training in the field of macromolecular science, with emphasis on chemical and physical studies of natural and synthetic macromolecules.

ERRATUM. In the article "Stomatal Closure and Inhibition of Transpiration induced by (RS)-Abscisic Acid" by Cathryn J. Mittelheuser and R. F. M. Van Steveninck (*Nature*, 221, 281; 1969) the contents title unfortunately contradicted the authors' findings. It should have read "Abscisic acid induces stomatal closure and inhibits transpiration".

ERRATUM. In the introductory paragraph to the article "Structure-Activity Relationships of One-Ring Psychotomimetics" by Alexander T. Shulgin, Thornton Sargent and Claudio Naranjo (*Nature*, 221, 537; 1969) "triple methoxy substitution" should have read "trisubstitution". In Table 3 "Potential for *ortho*-quinone only; oxygen available" should have read "Potential for *ortho*-quinone only; oxygen not available". On p. 540, twenty-three lines down (XXIV, $\mu=1$) should have read (XXIV, $\mu < 1$).

ERRATUM. In the article "Bark Beetle Attractants: Identification, Synthesis and Field Bioassay of a New Compound isolated from *Dendroctonus*" by G. W. Kinzer *et al.* (*Nature*, 221, 477; 1969) the first sentence of the fifth paragraph should read "The activity of the synthesized compound was tested in field conditions in the Boyce Thompson Institute's experimental forest near Beaumont, Texas, using tree trunk simulating olfactometers".

International Meetings

March 5, **Proteins: Nutritional Potential and Nutritional Performance**, Norwich (Dr J. J. Wren, Food Group, SCI, Lyons Central Laboratories, 149 Hammersmith Road, London W14).

March 19, **Food Group, Twenty-Second Convegazione**, London (Dr J. J. Wren, Food Group SCI, Lyons Central Laboratories, 149 Hammersmith Road, London W14).

March 26–28, **Compatibility of Transport Systems**, Loughborough (Mr J. M. Charles, Administrative Assistant, Department of Transport Technology, Loughborough University of Technology, UK).

March 31–April 1, **Mechanical Properties and Design**, Guildford (R. W. Whorlow, Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, or J. P. Berry, Rubber and Plastics Research Association, Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, UK).

April 14–18, **Joint Meeting of the Chemical Society and the Royal Institute of Chemistry—7 Symposia**, Nottingham (Dr John F. Gibbon, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN).

April 15–16, **Electronic Materials—Poorly Conducting Materials**, Lancaster (Dr D. Dew-Hughes, Department of Physics, University of Lancaster, Bailrigg, Lancaster, UK).

May 19–21, **New Dimensions in Legal and Ethical Concepts for Human Research**, New York (Jean Fitzpatrick, New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East Street, New York, NY 10021).

May 26–27, **Rheumatoid Factors**, New York (Jean Fitzpatrick, New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East Street, New York, NY 10021).

September 1–4, **Geographical Pathology—Pulmonary Emphysema and the Cardiomyopathies**, Jerusalem (Dr I. S. Levij, Department of Pathology, Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School, P.O.B. 1172, Jerusalem, Israel).

September 1–5, **Neurochemistry**, Milan (Dr J. Folch-Pi, Department of Neurochemistry, McLeans Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Belmont, Massachusetts 02178, USA, or Dr Rodolfo Paoletti, Institute of Pharmacology, University of Milan, Via Andrea del Sarto 21, 20129 Milan, Italy).

September 2–4, **Hyperbaric Medicine**, Japan (Dr Takashi Iwa, Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Sapporo Medical College and Hospital, South 1, West 16, Sapporo, 060 Japan).

Sabbatical Itinerants

In the hope of providing some practical assistance in the good cause of mobility between laboratories, *Nature* is proposing to advertise the needs for housing of families about to take up periods of abbatial leave. To begin with, no charge will be made for advertisements like this. It is hoped that a period of experiment will show what form these advertisements could most usefully take and whether they are effective.

Wanted: Furnished house in London or suburbs for 1 year from August 1, 1969, for Canadian professor, wife and 3 children. Please write to Dr C. J. Willis, Chemistry Department, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada.

BRITISH DIARY

Monday, February 24

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (in the Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, London, WC1), at 5 p.m.—Professor Eraldo Antonini (University of Rome): "The Reactions of Myoglobin and Haemoglobin with Ligands" (further lecture on February 27).

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, WC1), at 5.30 p.m.—Professor Peter Schöller (Ruhr): "Urban Change in Japan: I, The Modern Japanese City".

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING GROUP (at 1 Birdcage Walk, London, SW1), at 6 p.m.—Discussion meeting on "Modern Practice in the Teaching of Properties of Materials".

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS (at John Adam Street, London, WC2), at 6 p.m.—Professor W. H. G. Armytage: "New Objectives in Scientific Education" (second of three Cantor Lectures on "Technology in Education").

INSTITUTION OF THE RUBBER INDUSTRY, MANCHESTER SECTION (at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Sackville Street, Manchester), at 6.45 p.m.—Mr K. J. Turk and Mr R. G. Sheppard: "Injection and Transfer Moulding Machinery".

Tuesday, February 25

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, MANIPULATIVE AND MECHANICAL HANDLING MACHINERY GROUP (at 1 Birdcage Walk, London, SW1)—All-day meeting on "Practical Bunker Design".

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (in the Anatomy Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1), at 1.20 p.m.—Miss Gertrude H. Keir: "Children of Tristan da Cunha—a Psychological Study".

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at Savoy Place, London, WC2), at 5.30 p.m.—Discussion meeting on "Open Resonators" opened by Professor A. L. Cullen, Dr A. Kumar, Dr J. N. Birch, Dr D. Tyte and Dr P. De Vaz.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at Savoy Place, London, WC2), at 5.30 p.m.—Mr J. E. Shippey: "Engineering Data Processing—How the Computer can assist the Designer".

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (at the Institute of Child Health, Guilford Street, London, WC1), at 5.30 p.m.—Professor Barrie R. Jones: "Approach to Therapy in Viral Diseases" (fourteenth of sixteen lectures on "The Scientific Basis of Medicine" organized by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation).

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (at the Institute of Archaeology, 31–34 Gordon Square, London, WC1), at 5.45 p.m.—Professor A. Cambitoglou (Sydney): "The Geometric Settlement of Zagora on the Island of Andros—Excavations 1967".

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, MANUFACTURE AND MACHINERY GROUP (at 1 Birdcage Walk, London, SW1), at 6 p.m.—Discussion meeting on "Graduate Foreman in Industry".

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, PLASTICS AND POLYMER GROUP (at 14 Belgrave Square, London, SW1), at 6 p.m.—Dr W. W. Kerr: "Gel Permeation Chromatography—the Technique and Its Impact on the Industrial Scene".

SOCIETY FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, NORTH EAST SECTION (joint meeting with the Newcastle upon Tyne and N.E. Coast Section of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, in the School of Chemistry, Newcastle University), at 6.30 p.m.—Mr S. Denton: "Forensic Science".

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (at University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1), at 6.30 p.m.—Mr R. Jenkins: "The Structure of Conflicts" (seventh of nine University Extension Lectures on "Conflict Research and International Studies—a Scientific Approach").

Wednesday, February 26

ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY; and the PESTICIDES GROUP OF THE SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (at 4 Hamilton Place, London, W1), at 9.45 a.m.—All-day meeting on "Future Trends in Agricultural Aviation".

ROYAL INSTITUTION, HISTORY OF SCIENCE DISCUSSION GROUP (at 21 Albemarle Street, London, W1), at 1 p.m.—Dr V. A. Eyles: "Meeting Points of Geology and Biology".

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRONIC AND RADIO ENGINEERS, JOINT IERE/IEE COMPUTER GROUPS (at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Cleveland Street, London, W1), at 2.30 p.m.—Colloquium on "Fail-Safe Techniques for High Reliability Computer Equipment".

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at Savoy Place, London, WC2), at 5.30 p.m.—Discussion meeting on "The Need for, and Practical Problems of, Short Clearance Times" opened by Mr N. S. Ellis, Mr J. B. Patrickson and Mr A. U. Dowell.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London, SE1) at 5.30 p.m.—Professor John Paul: "The Regulation of Differentiation by Gene Masking".

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (at the Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, London, SE5), at 5.30 p.m.—Dr F. Kräupl Taylor: "Prokaletic Psychotherapy—Treatment of Goal Directed Challenge".

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (at 1 Birdcage Walk, London, SW1), at 6 p.m.—Mr Wolf G. Rodenaker: "Designing without Models".

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, FOOD GROUP (joint meeting with the Management Group, at 14 Belgrave Square, London, SW1), at 6.15 p.m.—Mr N. Goldenberg: "Technical Management in the Food Industry".

PLASTICS INSTITUTE, LONDON SECTION ENGINEERING SUBGROUP (at the Coachmaker's Arms, 88 Marylebone Lane, London, W1), at 6.30 p.m.—Mr A. D. Downing: "Prototypes and Prototype Moulds".

Thursday, February 27

ROYAL SOCIETY (at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1), at 9.30 a.m.—Discussion Meeting on "Photoelectron Spectroscopy" organized by Professor W. C. Price, FRS, and Mr D. W. Turner.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (in the Anatomy Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1), at 1.20 p.m.—Mr B. C. Brookes: "Libraries, Information, and Scientific Creativity: II, The Local Problem—LUCIS".