

"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,

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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,

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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,

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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,

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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".