

telescoped into: The farmer feeds cows mangel-wurzels. The meaning has been reduced to "give" or "supply". Even St Matthew is no longer sacrosanct: we may now feed pigs pearls<sup>3</sup>.

Yours faithfully,  
J. C. RIGG

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and Documentation (Pudoc),  
Wageningen,  
The Netherlands

<sup>1</sup> Cowie, A. T., Folley, S. J., Corss, B. A., Harris, G. W., Jacobsohn, D., and Richardson, K. C., *Nature*, **168**, 421 (1951).

<sup>2</sup> British Society of Animal Production, *The Description of Farm Animals in Scientific Publications* (West of Scotland Agricultural College, Auchincruive, Ayr, 1967).

<sup>3</sup> Matthew, S., Chap. 7, v. 6 (n.d.).

## Retino-rectal Connexions?

SIR,—I notice that there are at least two errors in your correspondent's report of the Glasgow embryological meeting (*Nature*, **233**, 232; 1971). The first is obviously a trivial deletion: "leg disks"

and not "legs" were bisected. The second is more profound as it has the optic nerve connecting with the rectum. This rarely occurs in Amphibia, to which I think he was referring. When it does it leads to an annoying condition known as tunnel vision.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY ROBERTSON

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# Announcements

## University News

The title of honorary professor of thoracic surgery in the University of Birmingham has been conferred on Mr J. Leigh Collis.

Professor J. O'M. Bockris, University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed to a chair of chemistry in the School of Physical Sciences, Flinders University of South Australia.

Professor F. G. Heath, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, has been appointed to the new second chair in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Heriot-Watt University.

The following appointments have been made in the University of London: Professor W. Brumfitt, to the chair of medical microbiology tenable at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine; Dr C. A. C. Mims, to the chair of microbiology tenable at Guy's Hospital Medical School; Dr J. Pitt-Rivers, to the chair of anthropology tenable at the London School of Economics; Professor J. G. Taylor, to the chair of mathematics tenable at King's College.

Mr J. S. Ellis, director of postgraduate studies for the Wessex Regional Hospital Board, has been appointed to the chair of orthopaedic and accident surgery in the University of Southampton.

## Appointments

Dr I. Steele Russell has been appointed director of the MRC Unit on Neural Mechanisms of Behaviour, in succession to Professor G. C. Drew.

Professor R. Baskett has been appointed a member of the Agricultural Advisory Council, in succession to Sir Gordon Cox. Professor Baskett will also succeed Sir Gordon as secretary of the Agricultural Research Council.

Sir Alan Wilson has been appointed chairman of the board of governors of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, in succession to Major-General Cyril Lloyd.

## Miscellaneous

Professor L. J. Bruce-Chwatt, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Professor A. Corradetti, Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome, have been awarded jointly the Darling Medal and Prize of the World Health Organization, for services to research on and control of malaria.

Professor Luigi Broglio, University of Rome, has received the 1971 Daniel and Florence Guggenheim International Astro-nautics Award.

Two A. E. Bennett research awards, one in basic and one in clinical science, are offered by the Society of Biological Psychiatry for the purpose of stimulating research in biological psychiatry by young investigators. The awards, each worth \$750, will be made for papers describing work currently in progress, which shows particular independence of thought and originality. Further information can be obtained from Dr Sabit Gabay, chairman of the Committee on Research Awards, Biochemistry Research Laboratory, Veterans Administration Hospital, Brockton, Massachusetts 02401, USA.

## International Meetings

October 18, Phloem Transport, London (Assistant Secretary, Society of Chemical Industry, 14 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

October 26–28, Chemistry and Biological Activity of Cannabis, Stockholm (Dr J. Lars G. Nilsson, Apotekarsocieteten, Stockholm, Sweden).

November 10, Are Consumers Offered the Food Products They Want?, London (Dr N. C. Robson, 5 Crest Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 7JA).

November 11–13, Mammary Neoplasia, Cherry Hill, NJ (Mrs Diane Meredith, Executive Secretary, Institute for Medical Research, Copewood Street, Camden, NJ 08103, USA).

December 3, Alcohol in Nutrition, London (Dr J. D. Sutton, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading RG2 9AT).

## British Diary

### Tuesday, October 12

**Communications in Control** (5.30 p.m.) Dr R. H. Barker, Institution of Electrical Engineers, at Savoy Place, London WC2.

**Pigmentation of Plastics** (7.30 p.m.) Mr J. E. Todd, Oil and Colour Chemists' Association, at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds.

**The Interface Between Biological and Mechanical Systems** (7.30 p.m.) Mr S. V. Hayes, Society of Environmental Engineers, at the University of Birmingham.

**The Mechanism of Nerve Conduction** (5.30 p.m.) Professor A. F. Huxley, FRS, Royal Institution, at 21 Albemarle Street, London W1. (Lecture for Sixth Form Pupils from Schools in London and the Home Counties. To be repeated on October 13, 18 and 19.)

### Wednesday, October 13

**A Blood Analyser Using the PDP-8/L** (5.30 p.m.) Mr E. T. Oram, joint IEE/IERE Medical and Biological Electronics Group, at the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, at 9 Bedford Square, London WC1.

**A Review of Printing Inks and Printing Processes** (4.30 p.m.) Mr F. Lewis, Oil and Colour Chemists' Association, at the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, 36 George Street, Manchester 1. (Student Lecture.)