Silver Spring monkeys

 $S_{\rm IR}$ — As one who attended both State of Maryland vs. Edward Taub trials and served on the search and seizure warrant team that removed documents and animals from Taub's laboratory, I wish to comment on S. B. Galsworthy's letter (*Nature* 349, 13; 1991).

Galsworthy writes that "Taub was never convicted". Indeed, he was — by a circuit court judge and then, in a later trial *de novo*, by a district court jury. His convictions were for violations of Article 27, Section 59 *et seq*. of the Annotated Code of the State of Maryland, otherwise referred to by law enforcement personnel as "the anti-cruelty statute".

I saw inside Taub's laboratory. The place was abominably filthy, its rusted cages with their broken bars failed to meet federal minimum standards (a matter of public record), all medications had long expired (as shown in the police photographs admitted into evidence), and animals languished with infected wounds (as confirmed in the testimony of primatologist Dr Geza Teleki and four veterinarians with expertise in primate medicine who personally examined the Silver Spring monkeys).

Taub's conduct should be used as an example of how not to do things in the laboratory.

INGRID E. NEWKIRK

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, PO Box 42516, Washington, DC 20015-0516, USA

• Taub's conviction on one count of the original indictment was overturned on appeal and the remaining 118 counts dismissed – Editor, *Nature*.

The parasites

S_{IR} – Efficient scientific work is increasingly dependent on the rapid availability of laboratory reagents. During the past few years, I have as a routine been placing orders by telefax from remote Finland directly to US dealers and obtained the needed items by express delivery within 2–3 days.

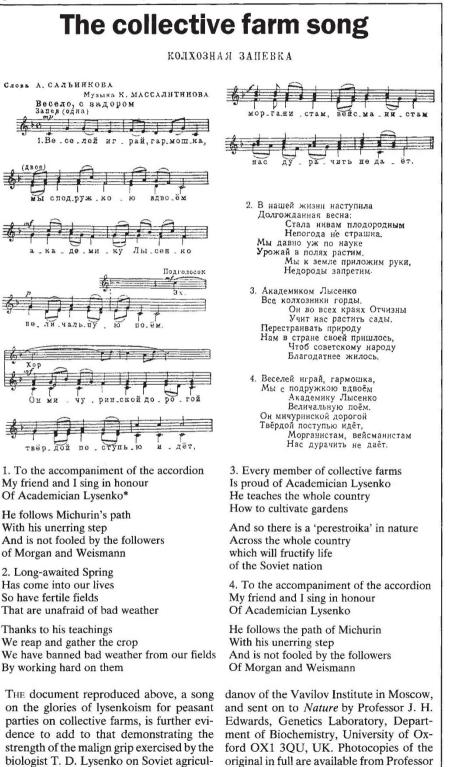
Oncogene Science (Manhasset, New York) responded to my recent order for monoclonal antibodies by advising me to contact its new local distributor in Sweden. When I did so, it turned out that the distributor did not keep the antibodies in stock but had to order them as well.

In a second telefax, I made this clear to Oncogene Science, asking it to avoid further delay of a stopover in Sweden by shipping the antibodies directly to Helsinki. In spite of this, the antibodies were delivered through the distributor in Sweden. The consequence It is reasonable that distributors, who keep local stocks of reagents and provide a rapid service, should charge extra to compensate for their costs. But middlemen who add 100 per cent or more to the price only for changing the address labels on the packages and

causing delay are not acceptable. They are just parasites in the scientific community and should be eradicated.

LEIF C. ANDERSSON

Department of Pathology, University of Helsinki, SF-00290 Helsinki, Finland



Edwards.

* Lysenko (1898-1976), Soviet biologist, who had a damaging influence on Soviet biology..." (The Macmillan Concise Encyclopaedia).

ture earlier this century. At the top is the

music and the four verses in Russian with a

translation by Barbara Izdebska below.

The song was unearthed by Dr Yuri F. Bog-

Editor, Nature