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letters

1941 "physics had recovered;" fundamental social questions did not have to be faced at that time "because general improvements in the economic and political situation permitted resumption of the growth of physics."

Though Weiner does not say so, I suspect he is referring to a series of events the rest of us call "World War II." If he is going to draw an analogy, it would be important to make clear the role of military spending in reviving US physics by 1941. The fact that such expenditures played a major role could provide us with a clear goal.

Victor Gilinsky
The Rand Corporation
Santa Monica, California

The author comments: Gilinsky's characterization of World War II as an improvement in the economic and political situation of the 1930's, and his suggestion that large-scale military expenditures might provide a clear goal for today's physicists who are seeking ways out of the current crisis, are in the best tradition of Jonathan Swift. If, however, his intent is not satirical, then I want to make clear that he is entitled to full credit for his original interpretation of historical events and for his values, which in no way did I intend to advocate in my article. Certainly physicists are creative enough to come up with more realistic and humane solutions.

Charles Weiner
American Institute of Physics
New York, N. Y.

One new journal more

Re "The New Journals" (August, page 54). Perhaps it is worth a reminder that celestial mechanics is still, after several centuries, a part of astronomy. The omission from your list on new journals of *Celestial Mechanics* (Reidel, 1969) is regrettable.

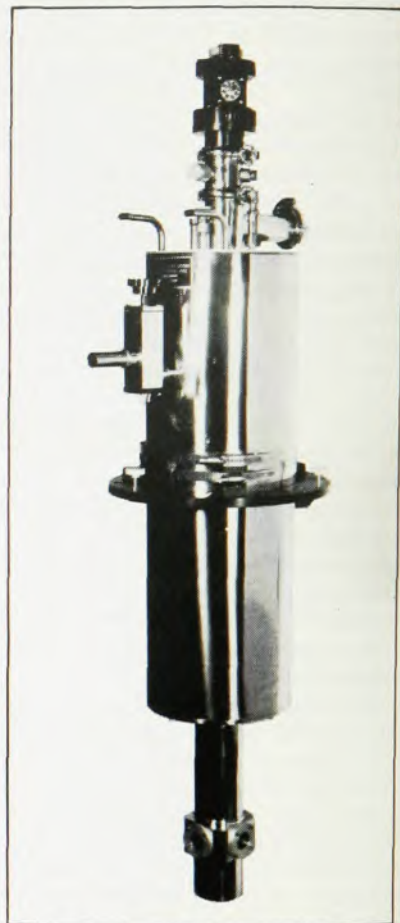
J. Derral Mulholland
Secretary,
Division on Dynamical Astronomy
American Astronomical Society

Correction

January 1971, page 17, line 5. In the letter by Robert Pearlstein two lines were omitted in the last paragraph.

This passage should have read (omitted words in *italic*): "Dyson points out the suitability of particle experimentalists for dealing with the problem of sequencing DNA. DeWitt mentions Wigner's ideas on a nonlinear generalization of quantum mechanics in conjunction with consciousness—a presumptive property of certain biological systems." □

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