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letters

actually take this or any other concrete action. I doubt that any amount of moaning and complaining and conference reporting will suffice to convince more than a handful of departments to restrict the number of their graduate enrollments for the benefit of the physics community.

W. SILVERT

*Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Soviet anniversary

Congratulations on your November issue commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

More than 30 years ago, I founded Plenum Publishing Corporation. Today we are one of the leading scientific, technical and medical publishers in the world. A cornerstone of our publishing program is the translation into English of Soviet scientific books and journals. Each year we translate and publish more than 90 Soviet periodicals as well as numerous monographs. The years spent developing this publishing program have witnessed many changes in Soviet-American relations. One of the most encouraging for the future of mankind is the recent cooperation in science and technological research.

I commend you for conceiving and publishing this issue of **PHYSICS TODAY**, which is dedicated to the furtherance of US-Soviet collaboration in science.

EARL M. COLEMAN

President

*Plenum Publishing Corporation
New York, N.Y.*

Planetary nebulae

Alas I must dispute the credit assignment of Donald Osterbrock (August, page 11). As one who suffered much under the problems of classification of planetary nebulae in the southern sky, half in jest at the I.A.U. Symposium on Planetary Nebulae at Tatranska Lomnica in Czechoslovakia in 1967, I remarked that we only had a hazy notion of what we were talking about and that the definition of a planetary nebula seemed to be an object which appeared in a catalogue of planetary nebulae. To my astonishment Minkowski concurred. At least we know that the Crab Nebula is not a planetary.

As an addendum along the same lines one may define a stellar association as a group of stars appearing in the same table in (fill in name of journal according to taste).

DAVID S. EVANS

*The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas* □