

ple, by Terry Wallace and by Brian Barker *et al.*¹ India and Pakistan will need to release more information, particularly the results of postshot radiochemical analyses, before we can finally decide which estimates are more accurate.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is important. It needs to be implemented as soon as possible. The growing verification arrangements for the CTBT, which include an increasing number of seismic monitoring stations, will be able to detect nuclear explosions down to very low thresholds.

References

1. T. Wallace, *Seismol. Res. Lett.* **69** (5), 386 (1998). B. Barker *et al.*, *Science* **281**, 1967 (1998).

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More about Philipp Lenard—Physicist, Nobelist, Racist

In responding to two letters regarding both your October 1997 special issue on the discovery of the electron and the ensuing discussion (February 1998, page 13), Max Lazarus states that “what showed signs of being a good-natured debate . . . has been somewhat tarnished by inclusion of the notorious Philipp Lenard, who, thanks to his venomous and open racism, lost all credibility even before the emergence of the Third Reich” (August 1998, page 85).

However, this is Lenard, the 1905 Nobel laureate, honored for his early work on cathode rays, including being the first to successfully create a window to deliver them outside the generating discharge tube. Separately and equally significantly, he was the first to show that the photoelectric effect emission consists specifically of electrons. Moreover, Lenard went on to show that their velocity is independent of the light intensity, and instead that their kinetic energy is dependent on the light frequency. He also made other contributions to physics.

There is no question that Lenard’s virulently expressed racist and nationalistic views were abhorrent, as were his savage attacks on what he called the “dogmatic Jewish physics” of Einstein and others and his early and ardent support of Hitler and National Socialism. He wielded enormous and evil influence in the Third Reich.

Yet, we must not deny him either his place in the history of physics or

his very existence, lest we too become guilty of single-minded hatred.

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German Gains Upper Hand over Latin in ‘Manned’ Spaceflight

James Daniels, in his letter on politically correct politics in physics (October, page 15), takes Stephen Hawking to task for trying to de-gender “manned” spaceflight. I would very much like to follow Daniels’s derivation of “manned” from *manus*, as it would make intelligible the expression “all hands on deck,” when manifestly it is all feet that are on deck. But the latest edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, as well as several American dictionaries that I have checked, trace the word back to the Germanic term for man, which I think is enough to give the PC police jurisdiction here.

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James Daniels says that “man,” “man-kind” and “manned” derive not from the Germanic root meaning male human, but from the Latin *manus*, a hand. Alas, his philology is awry.

The modern noun “man” comes in an uninterrupted descent to us from the Germanic parent language by way of the Old English “man” (in Aelfric’s grammar of c. 1000 AD). (The Old English word, however, meant a human being of either sex.) “Man-kind” developed from (and superseded) an older form, which was given in *Beowulf* as “mancynne” and today might be spelled “man-kin” (Aelfric knew Latin, but the *Beowulf* poet would not have.) The verb “to man” (Old English “mannian”) is also from the same Germanic root as the noun, though it is first attested to relatively late, only as recently as 1122.

None of these etymologies have anything to do with the Latin *manus*.

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Correction

October, page 84—In the review of *The Quantum Beat*, one of the cowinners of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Physics was misidentified; he was not Wolfgang Pauli, but Wolfgang Paul. ■

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