LETTERS

EDITORIAL
Desalination of Water

ARTICLES
Organisms and Molecules in Evolution: G. G. Simpson
Studies of evolution at the molecular level lead to greater understanding and a balancing of viewpoints.

Geology of the Crust and Mantle, Western United States: G. A. Thompson and M. Talwani
Geophysical data reveal a thin crust and anomalous upper mantle characteristic of active regions.

Social and endocrine factors are integrated in the regulation of growth of mammalian populations.

NEWS AND COMMENT
Scientists and Engineers in the Presidential Campaign II—Centers of Excellence

BOOK REVIEWS
Greece and Rome: The Molds of Western Civilization: S. S. Weinberg

Worlds Without Ends, reviewed by E. A. Shneour; other reviews by W. V. Doering, R. N. Varney, F. A. Graybill, L. C. Craig, V. Klee

REPORTS
Modern Graywacke-Type Sands: C. D. Hollister and B. C. Heezen


Marshes Prograding in Oregon: Aerial Photographs: C. L. Johannessen

Ancient Copper and Copper-Arsenic Alloy Artifacts: Composition and Metallurgical Implications: C. A. Key
DDT Antagonism to Dieldrin Storage in Adipose Tissue of Rats: J. C. Street 1580

Sequential Gene Action in the Establishment of Lysogeny: M. Levine and H. O. Smith 1581

Induction of Conjugation by Cell-Free Preparations in Paramecium multimicronucleatum: A. Miyake 1583

Mitomycin C: Effect on Ribosomes of Escherichia coli: H. Suzuki and W. W. Kilgore 1585

Methylurea and Acetamide: Active Reabsorption by Elasmobranch Renal Tubules: B. Schmidt-Nielsen and L. Rabinowitz 1587

Inulin and Albumin Absorption from the Proximal Tubule in Necturus Kidney: W. N. Scott et al. 1588

Anesthesia for the Bottlenose Dolphin, Tursiops truncatus: E. L. Nagel, P. J. Morgan, W. L. McFarland 1591

Protein Structure Relationships Revealed by Mutational Analysis: C. Yanofsky, V. Horn, D. Thorpe 1593

Reaction Time to Cortical Stimulation: J. Miller and M. Glickstein 1594

Telemetry of Homing Behavior by the Deer Mouse, Peromyscus: K. S. Rawson and P. H. Hartline 1596

Luminous Figures: Factors Affecting the Reporting of Disappearances: J. R. Schuck, T. C. Brock, L. A. Becker 1598

Comments on Reports: Discriminative Avoidance Training of Rats: F. R. Brush and H. M. B. Hurwitzi 1599

MEETINGS


DEPARTMENTS

New Products 1617

COVER

Onyx cameo with relief of the Roman imperial eagle. The eagle became an emblem of the might of Rome when Marius in 104 B.C. had silver eagles mounted on the standards of the Roman legions. The loss of such a standard was regarded as a grave disaster; sometimes the legion was disbanded because of it. See review of The Birth of Western Civilization, page 1567. [Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna; Erwin Meyer]
Editor's Summary

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