LETTERS
Catastrophe Theory: M. Senechal; M. Lewis; R. Rosen; M. A. B. Deakin; Carcinogens in Schools: E. B. Sansone and W. Lijinsky; Origins of an Ecological Theory: D. F. Rhoades

EDITORIAL
Tropical Medicine—New Vigor: H. A. Minners

ARTICLES
Voyaging Canoes and the Settlement of Polynesia: B. R. Finney
From the Psi to Charm: The Experiments of 1975 and 1976: B. Richter

NEWS AND COMMENT
Smallpox: Outbreak in Somalia Slows Rapid Progress Toward Eradication
Carter Remarks Provide Clues to Attitude on Science Advice
Space Chief Nominee Stresses Need for “Good Science”
Physics in Argentina
Water Projects Dispute: Carter and Congress Near a Showdown

RESEARCH NEWS
Surface Science (I): A Way to Tell Where the Atoms Are
The Calibi Conjecture: A Proof After 25 Years

BOOK REVIEWS
Cognition and Social Behavior, reviewed by M. Ross; Evolution, Development, and Children’s Learning, M. Konner; The Mechanisms of Mineralization in the Invertebrates and Plants, K. M. Towe; Books Received and Book Order Service

REPORTS
Rat Insulin Genes: Construction of Plasmids Containing the Coding Sequences: A. Ulrich et al.
Environmental Asbestos Pollution Related to Use of Quarried Serpentine Rock:  
A. N. Rohl, A. M. Langer, I. J. Selikoff  
中毒 1319

Meteorite Impact Crater Discovered in Central Alaska with Landsat Imagery:  
P. J. Cannon  
中毒 1322

Pathogenic Amoebas from Brackish and Ocean Sediments, with a Description of  
Acanthamoeba hatchetti, n. sp.: T. K. Sawyer, G. S. Visvesvara, B. A. Harke  
中毒 1324

Comparative Breeding Characteristics of Fusion and Fast Reactors: P. Fortescue  
中毒 1326

Polarity Transition Records and the Geomagnetic Dynamo: K. A. Hoffman  
中毒 1329

Lithium-Sodium Beta Alumina: First of a Family of Co-ionic Conductors?:  
W. L. Roth and G. C. Farrington  
中毒 1332

Radioimmunoassay for Abnormal Hemoglobins: F. A. Garver et al.  
中毒 1334

Feline Oncornavirus—Associated Cell Membrane Antigen: Expression in  
Transformed Nonproducer Mink Cells: A. H. Sliski et al.  
中毒 1336

Potential Operating Region for Ultrasoft X-ray Microscopy of Biological Materials:  
D. Sayre et al.  
中毒 1339

Synthetic Peptides Form Ion Channels in Artificial Lipid Bilayer Membranes:  
S. J. Kennedy et al.  
中毒 1341

Localization of Nigral Dopamine-Sensitive Adenylate Cyclase on Neurons  
Originating from the Corpus Striatum: P. F. Spano, M. Trabucchi, G. Di Chiara  
中毒 1343

Lens Cataract Formation and Reversible Alteration in Crystallin Synthesis in  
Cultured Lenses: J. Piatigorsky and T. Shinohara  
中毒 1345

Stink of Stinkpot Turtle Identified: ω-Phenylalkanoic Acids: T. Eisner et al.  
中毒 1347

Herbivore-Plant Interactions: Mixed Function Oxidases and Secondary Plant  
Substances: L. B. Bratstien, C. F. Wilkinson, T. Eisner  
中毒 1349

Asymptomatic Gonorrhea in Men: Caused by Gonococci with Unique Nutritional  
Requirements: G. Crawford et al.  
中毒 1352

Technical Comments: Aspergillus oryzae (NRRL Strain 1988): L. Stoloff,  
P. M. Imlievan, A. F. Schindler; G. Morgan-Jones; Estimating Evaporation:  
Difficulties of Applicability in Different Environments: J. D. Kalma,  
P. M. Fleming, G. F. Byrne; G. M. McKeon and C. W. Rose; S. B. Idso,  
R. D. Jackson, R. J. Reginato  
中毒 1353

Hōkūle‘a heading south toward Tahiti.  
This reconstruction of an ancient Polynesian voyaging canoe was sailed from  
Hawaii to Tahiti and returned in mid-1976 to obtain data on canoe performance  
needed to assess competing models of Polynesian exploration and settle-
ment. See page 1277. [Frank Wendell, International Society of Islands,  
1777 Ala Moana, Honolulu, Hawaii, © 1977]
Tropical Medicine—New Vigor

There is a new intensity of interest in international health. An initial focus seems to be on biomedical research. New directions are being considered within our government; the Committee on International Health of the Institute of Medicine is preparing a report at the request of Congress; and a number of other groups, such as the Rockefeller Foundation and the Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences, are looking again at international health as an area ripe for new thinking and initiatives. Beyond this, the World Health Organization has recently launched a Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, and a good number of U.S. investigators are already involved in this major scientific assault on diseases primarily found in the tropics.

The idea of blending science and technology into an international initiative has not been a major force in American foreign policy. It is true that a number of bilateral and international programs are well under way, but one is impressed that these most often derive from other efforts rather than muster the initiative in their own right. Thus, there remains a challenge to construct an effective and truly integrated alliance with foreign policy.

International health comprises a natural and comfortable combination of science and technology with humanitarian concern. It is a truism that neither health nor illness recognizes national borders, although it is also obvious that much disease has a definable cartographic distribution. But one might say that the somewhat descriptive field of geographic pathology is being broadened into "geographic medicine" through forces of political, social, and economic origin. The diseased and deprived whole human—not just the just the parasitic granulomas in his liver or the lepraoms in his skin—is becoming of paramount concern. The existing scientific base in rapidly moving fields such as immunology, cell biology, and genetics could well serve as the foundation on which to forge a new initiative in tropical medicine. Indeed, the ultimate success of the enterprise may depend on attracting new investigators to work in fields such as tropical medicine—for example, through the creation of new faculty positions at institutions. Such an infusion of new scientific blood from a diversity of disciplines is important to this relatively neglected area of biomedical research.

In terms of support, perhaps what is required is not so much a great gush of money, but rather modest resources coupled with substantially enhanced authority and an opportunity to work in an international setting. This might increasingly take place within the framework of multinational organizations such as the World Health Organization. A "people intensive" approach in international health research may make very good sense not only in terms of biomedical science, but also from a humanitarian perspective. No longer may American scientists who work overseas simply retreat to our shores with a trophy room full of specimens and data; instead, they must construct continuing scientific linkages and mutually productive partnerships.

Although we will need to engage more of our best minds in research in tropical medicine, there is already a growing interest in the immunologic response to parasitic infections, and the study of relationships between cell competence and malnutrition is generating excitement. Indeed, for the newly trained investigator making his way, the scientific rewards are there. With wide scientific opportunity as well as international humanitarian appeal, it should be possible to generate renewed interest among "good people." If we put our minds to it, the next decade may well see research in tropical medicine come to the forefront in the search for new knowledge. —HOWARD A. MINNERS, Associate Director for International Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20014