LETTERS

EDITORIAL
R & D in the Fiscal 1983 Budget: W. H. Shapley

ARTICLES
Isotopic Composition of Neodymium in Waters from the Drake Passage: D. J. Piepgras and G. J. Wasserburg
Agricultural Research and Third World Food Production: D. L. Plucknett and N. J. H. Smith
Amplification and Adaptation in Regulatory and Sensory Systems: D. E. Koslind, Jr., A. Goldbeter, J. B. Stock

NEWS AND COMMENT
AAMC Speaks on Coping with Fraud
NIH Grapples with Misconduct
Frank Press Takes Exception to NAS Panel Recommendations on Marijuana
New Technologies for Nonproliferation

Briefing: Spain Rejoins CERN After 14-Year Absence; The Case of the Sinking Boosters; Federal Judge Dismisses “Creation Science” Suit; Gorsuch Strikes Back at EPA Critics; Agencies in Dispute over Cancer Policy

RESEARCH NEWS
Test Fails to Confirm Cloud Seeding Effect
Slower Magnetic Fusion Pace Set
Food Fuels Reproductive Success
BOOK REVIEWS  Principles of Neural Science, reviewed by R. F. Olivo; Sister Chromatid Exchange, J. A. Heddie; Searching Between the Stars, R. L. Brown; Recent and Fossil Bryozoa, F. J. Maturo, Jr.; Books Received  .......................................................... 240

REPORTS  Microwave Edge Diffraction by Features in Saturn’s Rings: Observations with Voyager 1: E. A. Marouf and G. L. Tyler .......................................................... 243

Advection of Pore Fluids Through Sediments in the Equatorial East Pacific: F. L. Sayles and W. J. Jenkins .......................................................... 245


Anxiolytics Alter Cerebrovascular Permeability and Metabolic Rate in Primates: S. H. Preskorn, M. E. Raichle, B. K. Hartman ........................................... 250

Measurement of Intracellular Free Calcium in Monkey Kidney Cells with Aequorin: A. B. Borle and K. W. Snowdowne  .......................................................... 252


Transplantation of Leukemic Bone Marrow Treated with Cytotoxic Antileukemic Antibodies and Complement: M. E. Trigg and D. G. Poplack .......................................................... 259

‘An Enzymatic System for Removing Heparin in Extracorporeal Therapy: R. Langer et al. .......................................................... 261


The Retina of the Newborn Human Infant: I. Abramov et al. .......................................................... 265

Dietary Calcium in Human Hypertension: D. A. McCarron, C. D. Morris, C. Cole .......................................................... 267

Technical Comments: Intrathecal Interferon for Multiple Sclerosis: C. C. Berry; L. Jacobs et al. .......................................................... 269

COVER

Slash-and-burn agriculture in the Amazon rainforest. Tropical forests often mask nutrient-poor soils with high levels of toxic aluminum. Ashes released after burning the vegetation provide a temporary layer of fertilizer that is soon removed by leaching, erosion, and crop harvesting. These marginal lands are nevertheless the focus of increasingly intense settlement by pioneers. Several international agricultural research centers are investigating ways of boosting food production from such problem areas. See page 215. [Nigel J. H. Smith, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611]
Editor's Summary

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