

6. Barker, R. J. and Alexander, B. A., *Ann. Ent. Soc. Am.*, 1958, 51, 255.
7. Varute, A. T. and Sawant, V. A., *Comp. Biochem. Physiol.*, 1972, 41B, 675.
8. Pant, Radha and Agrawal, H. C., *Biochem. J.*, 1965, 96, 824.
9. Matsushita, S. and Iwami, N., *Mem. Res. Ins. Food Sci., Kyoto Univ.*, 1967, 28, 75.
10. Fishman, W. H., *Determination of  $\beta$ -glucuronidases*, in *Methods of Biochemical Analysis* (ed.) D. Glick, Vol. XVI, Interscience, New York, 1967, p. 77.
11. Lowry, O. H., Rosebrough, N. J., Farr, A. L. and Randall, R. T., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1951, 193, 265.
12. De Duve, C. and Wattiaux, R., *Ann. Rev. Physiol.*, 1966, 28, 435.
13. Strauss, W., *J. Histochem. Cytochem.*, 1967, 15, 381.
14. Varute, A. T. and More, N. K., *Comp. Biochem. Physiol.*, 1971, B38, 255.

## NEWS

### ASSESSING BASIC RESEARCH

... "After reviewing the literature on scientific assessment, we argue that, while there are no simple measures of the contributions to scientific knowledge made by scientists, there are a number of 'partial indicators' — that is, variables determined partly by the magnitude of the particular contributions, and partly by 'other factors'. If the partial indicators are to yield reliable results, then the influence of these 'other factors' must be minimised. This is the aim of the method of 'converging partial indicators' proposed in this paper. . . . in an empirical study of four radio astronomy observatories, the method of converging partial indicators is tested, and several of the indicators (publications per researcher, citations per paper, numbers of highly cited papers, and peer

evaluation) are found to give fairly consistent results. The results are of relevance to two questions: (a) can basic research be assessed? (b) more specifically, can significant differences in the research performance of radio astronomy centres be identified? We would maintain that the evidence presented in this paper is sufficient to justify a positive answer to both these questions, and hence to show that the method of converging partial indicators can yield information useful to science policy-makers." (Reproduced with permission from: *Press Digest, Current Contents*®, No. 39, September 24, 1984, p. 14; Copy right by the Institute for Scientific Information® Philadelphia, PA, USA).

### COMPUTERS AS MIND READERS

... "Computers may soon be able to accept input directly from a person's brain. At first, the systems will use electrodes placed on a person's neck and temples, but in the next decade these will be replaced by 'biochips', computer chips made of organic materials, according to 'Non-Keyboard Data Entry', a 353 page report from International Resource Development Inc.

The report cited positive uses of the technology but warned that it may permit the stealing 'through' from a person's brain. (Reproduced with permission from: *Press Digest, Current Contents*® No. 40, October 1, 1984; Copyright by the Institute of Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA USA)".