

scrap science and sit patiently waiting for the catastrophe due to increase of population to come to us in the form of war, famine and disease. Nor is it right to decry pure science, for no investigator knows beforehand what discovery he is going to make and in what way it can be applied. If pure science is stifled,

applied science will be nipped in the bud. So Sir James concludes by exhorting all thinking men and women to ponder and decide whether it is better to risk the fate of that over-ambitious scientist Icarus, rather than resign ourselves without an effort to the fate which has befallen the bees and ants.

NEWS

CREAM, SUGAR, AND CHOLESTEROL

... "Coffee intake from three-day diet records was studied in association with plasma lipo-protein concentrations in a cross-sectional sample of 77 middle-aged American men to determine the significance and form of their interrelationships. The number of cups consumed per day correlated positively with levels of apolipoprotein B . . . and became more strongly correlated when adjusted for age, cigarette use, adiposity [amount of fat], aerobic capacity, nutrient intake, and stress. Coffee intake also correlated with total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels when adjusted for these confounding factors. Graphic analyses revealed that plasma concentrations of apolipoprotein B and LDL-cholesterol were un-

related to intake of up to two cups of coffee per day and positively associated with intake exceeding two to three cups. These results suggest that male heavy coffee drinkers have lipoprotein profiles suggestive of increased cardiovascular disease risk, although the causality remains to be determined."

[(Paul T. Williams (Stanford U. Sch. of Medicine) et al. in *JAMA—Journal of the American Medical Association* 253(10): 1407-11, 8 Mar 85). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*® , No. 19, May 13, 1985, p. 16, (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

CAN POLIO BE ELIMINATED?

... "It must be realized that paralytic poliomyelitis can never be completely eliminated by the use of poliovirus vaccines because there is adequate proof that clinically and pathologically typical paralytic poliomyelitis caused by some other enteroviruses has occurred sporadically and occasionally also in small epidemics. [However], studies on the immunogenic activity of synthetic peptides may greatly illuminate our understanding of the antigenic components involved in short-term protection against various infectious agents responsible for human disease. I hope they may also lead to an understanding of how most natural viral infections produce lifelong persistence of neutralizing antibodies and immunity without reinfection. The fascinating, highly sophisticated studies on

the nucleotide sequences of the three types of the most highly attenuated and most highly paralytogenic strains of polioviruses, it is hoped, coupled with equally sophisticated future studies on the phenotypic expression of the quantitative differences in the many distinct genetic properties of polioviruses may provide the knowledge with which to construct deletion mutants"

[(Albert B. Sabin (Natl. Insts. of Health) in *Journal of Infectious Diseases* 151(3): 420-36, Mar 85). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*® , No. 19, May 13, 1985, p. 16, (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]