involve a cell with its "unambiguous and dictatorial . . . packet of coded genetic information," and the infrequent inaccuracies that cause mutations—which "almost always turn out to contain useless misspellings which nature wisely discards." He then went on to say:

Man seems to be much more careless about preserving the integrity of his intercommunication. Lawyers, especially in their terms of art, and scientists, in their use of a precise and well-defined vocabulary, appear to be the chief guardians of verbal and syntactical stability. For all others, the modern idea seems to be that "language is a living, growing thing"; and growth in all directions, including downwards toward the low level of the street, apparently seems entirely acceptable to many.

One must grant that language is alive and evolving. Human words should change occasionally, but I think that at the best these mutations are the result of the radiant effect of poetic imagination or the responses to new necessities. It does seem reasonable to hope that new words should not be accredited merely because they are used by substantial numbers of careless, lazy, or ignorant persons.

Indeed, should we not protest in general against current trends towards more and more sloppiness with words and with grammar?

I want to make a plea for the older editions of Fowler's English Usage; for Strunk's The Elements of Style; for the continued use of the subjective mood; for the universal use of a comma before the final "and" in a series of listed items; and for all those similar rules of established grammatical virtue which have of late been scorned by so many.

I would enjoy adding comments about the newly revised Webster. But Science must be sent through the mail.

†This portion of the editorial is reprinted by permission.

TENATE AND DIALYSATE

There is need for a new word to designate that which is held back or retained in various chemical operations—dialysis, filtration, distillation—writes Wayne Donaldson, a contributor to Science [138 (1962) 1188]. The word dialysate should be applied only to that part of a solution that passes through the membrane. That is the common usage, as in the three medical dictionaries in general use in the United States, but not in the 2nd edition of Webster, where it is given (spelled dialyzate) as: "That part of a material subjected to dialysis which fails to pass the membrane—opposed to diffusate."

The word "tenate," which has the same root as tenant and tenable and can be both noun and adjective, is proposed for the part that is held back. Its use "should prevent extension of the appalling confusion which led Webster's 3rd edition to retreat to the following useless definition of dialysate: 'used either of the material that has failed to diffuse through the membrane or of the diffusate.'"—H. W. Ware