

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. WADE