

with a few notable exceptions, the pyramids in the world are now tombs in which are buried the symbols of various administrations that once flourished but are now dead. I do not think the time has come for our science, our departments or our societies to go this route, and I hope we can all work together to maintain the vitality of the pyramids that are part of physiology.

**SPECIALTY MEETING
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY 1979
RELATION BETWEEN BRAIN NEUROTRANSMITTERS
AND ENDOCRINE FUNCTIONS**

The Council of APS has approved a special meeting to be held at the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, beginning Wednesday afternoon, August 22, 1979 and ending Friday afternoon, August 24, 1979. Some housing and dining facilities will also be provided for at the Kellogg Center. The Endocrine Society will be a Guest Society.

The meeting will consider mainly the relation of hypothalamic biogenic amines and other neurotransmitters to control of secretion of pituitary hormones, the mechanisms by which neurotransmitters influence pituitary function, the presence and function of pituitary hormones in the brain, the role of endorphins and enkephalins on endocrine function, neurotransmitters regulation of individual pituitary hormones, the effects of steroid hormones on the brain, and related topics.

The symposium, "Role of Hypothalamic Neurotransmitters on Pituitary Function" will be held on two half days. Each symposium session will consist of five invited 30-minute presentations.

It is expected that two simultaneous sessions composed of contributed short communications and poster presentations will be scheduled for the remaining three half days.

The call for abstracts will be mailed in January 1979 to those APS members recorded in the Society records as interested in endocrinology or neurophysiology. All other APS members who want to receive the meeting information packet should return the postcard request included in this issue.

The local committee for the meeting is composed of the following:

Lynn Clemens, Dept. of Zoology
W.D. Collings, Dept. of Physiology
Edward Convey, Dept. of Dairy Science
Richard Dukelow, Endocrine Res. Unit
Harold Hafs, Dept. of Dairy Science
Arthur Kohrman, Dept. of Human Development
Joseph Meites, Dept. of Physiology, *Chairman*
Kenneth Moore, Dept. of Pharmacology
Raymond Nachreiner, Vet. Clinic Ctr.
Gail Riegler, Endocrine Res. Unit, Dept. of Physiology
David Rovner, Dept. of Internal Med.
Clifford Welsch, Dept. of Anatomy

**MILTON O. LEE
APS Executive Secretary 1947-1956**

Dr. Milton O. Lee, who served as Executive Secretary of the American Physiological Society from 1947 to 1956 died in Sarasota, Florida on November 19, 1978. During this period he also served as Managing Editor of APS publications and Executive Officer of FASEB in which posts he continued until his retirement in 1965.

**THE PHYSIOLOGY OF
VIEWING WHITE ON BLACK SLIDES**

NANCY ANN DAHL

A standard statement in "Preparation of Slides" states "Negative slides (black background) of typed or lettered material or line drawings have advantages because 1) projected images show up better in dimly lighted rooms and 2) they can be color-coded" (1). Perhaps the first statement is true for people with 20/20 vision but those of us with modest optical aberrations know it is not always the case. When a room is dimly lit or, more often, nearly dark, the small amount of light shining through the words on the slide is not enough to constrict the pupil. Any uncorrected astigmatism or myopia causes the image to be out of focus on the retina and the fine white lines widen until a, e and o blur to identical orbs. If the same slide is projected as black on white the white background causes the pupil to constrict and the pin-hole effect sharpens the image. Even the emmetropic eye fails to act as an ideal optical instrument when the pupil is larger than 2 mm because of inherent aberrations and these aberrations become progressively more important as the pupil enlarges (2).

It is interesting to note that dark slides are often criticized by projectionists because such slides absorb heat and melt. I have been at meetings where all slides with dark blue or black backgrounds were eliminated within twenty seconds.

It is understandable that pretty blue and pink letters on a black background might look desirable to scientists in other fields but as physiologists let us apply our science to our behavior. Since visual acuity is improved when the total illumination of a slide constricts the pupil let us use dark letters on light background and try to influence others to do likewise.

REFERENCES

1. Unified Rules For Presentation of Papers. 62nd FASEB Annual Meeting, April 1978.
2. Westheimer, G. In: Mountcastle, V.B. (Ed.) *Medical Physiology*, 12th Ed. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1968, pp. 1543.