Dear Sir:

Send Spring Comment

SIR: I have the opinion that the choice of words "Silent Spring," Miss Carson's "Silent Spring" (C&EN, Oct. 1, 1960) was most unfortunate. Unfortunately, the history of mankind shows that in order to obtain a mass popular-type audience, the most effective type of journalism used in this book is necessary. The book contains some exaggerations and errors of fact is beside the point. I have read many scientific articles that contained misleading, confusing, or erroneous statements. In fact, almost everyone who has written several papers is guilty of some sort.

No informed person who is honest can claim that our environment is not being changed in many harmful ways. The statement that no new factual material appears in the book, that the experts are aware of all these things and are attempting to take corrective measures—these all do not agree with the book.

To say, as the reviewer does halfway through the review, that the review should logically end here, and then admit several paragraphs later, near the end, that the book could have some educational value, is reprehensible. Murray Hill, N.J. Joseph Hoffman

Dear Sir:

"Silence, Miss Carson."
The above title would have been quite proper if used to head a personal rebuttal of a highly controversial book.

It seems rather unfortunate, however, that the section usually reserved for objective and factual book analysis has in this case deceived its purpose. Without wanting to delve further into the merits of the book in question, I think that the reader turning to a book review column does so in order to obtain an unbiased idea of the book's values and shortcomings.

The article by Dr. William J. Darby should have received recognition in a more appropriate section of this journal. In my opinion, it can hardly be classified as a book review.

State College, Pa. Dr. A. Provini

Eb. Note: The heading was written by C&EN, not Dr. Darby.

Dear Sir:

Wrong Credit

I am embarrassed by being given credit (C&EN, Sept. 17, page 78) for work which I did not do. The work on programed instruction described on that page should be credited to Dr. Jesse H. Day.

In each of three paragraphs my name occurs in connection with work done by him.

What happened was that I read Dr. Day's prepared paper before the Division of Chemical Education because of an emergency situation which prevented his appearance.

Lawrence P. Eblin

Athens, Ohio