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LETTERS

To the Editor

A Sportsman Speaks

Dear Sir:

In your Nature Note article of the Feb. 25 issue of *SCIENCE NEWS* you indicate that the sole reason for the drastic reduction of pronghorn was due to hunters, which you refer to as "armed population." You fail to point out, however, that this "armed population" consisted almost entirely of professional market hunters, as opposed to those who hunted for sport. I am sure that this was an honest oversight.

Another very important factor in the reduction of the pronghorn herds was fencing of the pronghorn range. In contrast to deer, pronghorn never learned to jump fences, and many livestock fences are such that an animal like a pronghorn cannot crawl through or under. The fence, therefore, posed a serious restriction to the pronghorn's natural movement and contributed significantly to his reduction in number.

One last point is that the "careful conservation practices" you mention are financed primarily by state and Federal funds derived from taxes levied on sporting goods and the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

Ernest E. Jones Jr.
Fort Worth, Tex.

Phonetic Alphabet

Dear Sir:

I was much interested in Patricia McBroom's article in *SCIENCE NEWS* of 11th February about my Initial Teaching Alphabet.

I suppose Gillooly and Gates really believe that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds, and that there is no room for improvement because what was right for Caxton is right still.

Anyhow you might care to write to Dr. Rebecca Stewart, Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education, Bethlehem Area School District, 125 West Packer Avenue, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015. She is one of those with the longest experience of i.t.a.—and as an employee of a school system at a high level. It would be interesting to find out whether Gillooly and Gates have been into any i.t.a. school with an open mind, and if so; how many schools in how many districts have they visited to enquire the experience of the teachers.

Sir James Pitman K.B.E.
Chairman, The Initial Teaching Alphabet Foundation
London, England