

from our READERS

HOW TO APPLY TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

In the interest of improving communication between potential graduate students and the schools to which they apply, I would like to paraphrase the typical letter of inquiry, 'I am a student in chemical engineering at Flapdoodle University and would like to continue in graduate school at the University of Colorado. Please send me bulletins, admission forms, and information on financial assistance. Thank you. Cornelius Bucolic.'

This is so typical of the letters which I assume many of us receive. The omissions are many: 1) Exactly when is the student going to complete his work and when does he wish to enter the University of Colorado? 2) What are his interests; why should Colorado be a good school for him? 3) How good a student is he; what is his grade point average? 4) What is his citizenship; should he prove to be a competent student, is he eligible for U.S. Government sponsored fellowships and traineeships?

I recommend that early in the fall every school ask a teacher of seniors to have a heart-to-heart father-and-son (or daughter, as the case may be) conversation with students who are planning to apply for graduate school, and ask them, please, to be specific in stating their qualifications and reasons for being interested. It will save many frustrations, lost time, and wasted dollars.

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ChE book reviews

Man's Impact on Environment, Thomas R. Detwiler, McGraw Hill, (1971) 731 pp. \$5.95.

On cursory examination, Thomas R. Detwiler's "Man's Impact on Environment" appears to be another rush job non-book to serve the current environment fad. Like such books it is a collection of papers previously printed elsewhere, and in some cases, published many times over. But Detwiler provides authorship as well as careful selection and organization. In addition to introductory and summary chapters, he provides a short but useful introduction to each of the 50 selections, giving related references which may be more current than the paper and prove most valuable to the reader.

The selections are grouped into 10 sections. These sections include a wide range of topics: thermal pollution, aquatic weeds, surface mining, world population, air pollution, defoliation in Viet Nam, pesticide effects, wildlife in danger, the possible biological effects of a Central American sea-level canal, and more. They give one an insight

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