Webster's Dictionary defines *colloquy* as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

Dmitri Borgmann has discovered a second fourteen-letter pair isogram, SCINTILLESCENT. This ranks with Darryl Francis' discovery to TAENIODONTIDAE reported in the August 1971 Word Ways. How many others will be revealed when Levine's third Pattern Word List is issued a few months hence? In view of the fact that only six twelve-letter pair isograms turned up in the second Pattern Word List, it is likely that these are the only two listed in boldface type in Webster's Second or Third.

According to William Sunners, Jack Levine's first Pattern Word List (words 2 to 9 letters long) is now out of print.

Ernst Theimer of Rumson, New Jersey has slightly modified his high-scoring single-move Scrabble solution reported on in the November 1972 Word Ways. He has replaced REJECTIVITY with REJECTIVE, RAFFABLE with RANKLED, and GREENGAGES with GRATIFYING for a total of 1802 points, only 5 less than he had previously. There is no doubt that this is a much better solution, even though it probably will not satisfy the exacting requirements of the Games & Puzzles contest. Mr. Theimer defends his key word, REEQUILIBRIZING, by pointing out that Webster's makes no pretense of listing all acceptable RE- words; for example, such plausible words as REINVOKE are omitted. He points out that the word is used routinely by chemists, although the synonym REEQUILIBRATING is more common.

Darryl Francis reports that the highest Scrabble score submitted in the first month of the Games & Puzzles competition utilized the key word PHENYLHYDRAZINE to achieve a total of 1700 points.

A couple of readers complained that Dmitri Borgmann's "Logological Geography" article in the November 1972 issue was far too difficult to do, requiring endless poring over maps. It should have been pointed out that his puzzle could be redefined at various levels of difficulty, the simplest task being the rearrangement of the 81 words and phras-
es into town names in the states listed. Word Ways is not interested in publishing puzzles except as a means to an end -- that of illustrating some interesting facet of logology. In this case, the puzzle was intended to be an introduction to the subject of placename anagrams, previously mentioned in passing in the August 1970 Word Ways. Answers and Solutions in this issue lists a number of previously-unpublished placename multiple anagrams, including a remarkable seven-way anagram:

ELNORA Indiana  LENORA Kansas  LORENA Texas
LARONE Maine  LERONA W., Virginia  ORLEAN Virginia
LORANE Oregon

Do Word Ways readers know of any better examples?

As readers may have surmised, Dmitri Borgmann's puzzle was originally designed as part of a puzzle contest awarding cash prizes. This puzzle is unusual in that its output actually had some logological interest, unlike 99.44 per cent of puzzles of this genre. Logological research could take a great leap forward if the boundless energy and patience of contest-solvers were regularly enlisted in its service!

Remember the search for Websterian words with three consecutive identical letters, reported on in the November 1969 Word Ways? Darryl Francis points out that the word BOSSSHIP (unfortunately hyphenated in Webster's Unabridged) appears in the recently-issued first volume (A-G) of the Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary. Murray Pearce has generalized the problem by asking how many consecutive identical letters are possible if spaces and non-literal signs such as hyphens, apostrophes, etc. are ignored. His candidates are the four-S lexemes ROSS'S SEAL and ROSS'S SNOW GOOSE appearing in Webster's Second. Both of these vertebrates inhabit polar regions (the Arctic and the Antarctic, respectively), but were named for two different Britshers with the surname Ross.

Ralph Beaman, author of "The Pangrammatic Window" in the August 1972 issue, was disappointed that no reader noticed the pangrammatic sentence in the fifth paragraph of his November 1972 article, "Definitely". This shows how easy it is to construct reasonably short pangrammatic sentences that sound so natural that no one's suspicions are aroused.

No one with the surname YELLOW has stepped forward as a result of Darryl Francis' November 1972 article, "A Color Ado". Ralph Beaman reports various near misses -- Yellowitz and Yellowboy in Washington, D.C. and Yellowdy in Baltimore. Oddly, it is much easier to discover yellow surnames in other languages -- particularly Huang (Chinese) and Gelb (German). Ralph reports a colorful Rose Gelb in Brooklyn and a Violette Gelb in Manhattan (will Ruby Gelb please stand up?).
Have you ever wondered why recreational linguistics seems largely to be an English-language activity? Is it because Americans enjoy such a high standard of living that they have more time for wordplay than (say) Bulgarians do? Or (chauvinistic thought) is it possible that the English language is more suited for word games than other languages? Word Ways readers may be interested in a recent book by University of Colorado engineer Petr (not Peter) Beckmann, The Structure of Language: A New Approach (Golem Press, 1972), which suggests that the latter reason is true. Actually, his book is not addressed to recreational linguistics, but to the argument that any language can be regarded as an error-detecting code, i.e., various words or endings are used to resolve potential ambiguities rather than convey information. (For example, consider the omitted article in Man refuses to give up biting dog, or the omitted verb in French army cooks women.) English, he points out, has a flimsier system of error-checks than most other languages; hence ambiguous statements are more likely to occur when the checks are left out. From the standpoint of recreational linguistics, another characteristic of English is more important—its crowded signal-space, in which a single misprint can change one word into another. As evidence that English crowds its signal-space more than other languages do, Beckmann points out that the Reader's Digest has for years run a column, "Your Slip Is Showing!" in the parent magazine, but never in the foreign-language editions. Some familiarity with mathematics and computers is helpful in understanding the details of many of Beckmann's arguments, however, the lay reader can get many a chuckle from the amusing examples used to illustrate various points: Cleaning widows can be fun; Poultry men to hear egg talk; Rubber farmers turn to cocoanuts; Ancient Indian remains uncovered near Roswell.

Dmitri Borgmann recently called the editor's attention to a placename lexeme that forms a sixteen-letter isogram: SOUTH CAMBRIDGE N. Y.

Double-X words continue to be so rare that any new one is worthy of mention. In addition to the surnames Foxx and Fixx, the surname Sixx has now surfaced in an obituary in the Morris County Daily Record for November 1972.

William Sunners, Brooklyn, N. Y. writes that if Word Ways readers are interested in ordering word booklets from National Library Publications, Box 73, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11234, they will be charged only a small fraction of the advertised prices (as, for example, given in Robert Spence Publications' monthly magazine, The Prizewinner). Most of their books are designed to help the person entering word-oriented contests for money, but a few have general interest for logophiles:

1) Words arranged by length: 2-8 letter words (MWPD), 15-27 letter words (Web II). Other word-lengths from Web II may also be available, but are in limited supply.
2) Positional word lists (words of one length, alphabetized on each letter position, not just the first): 2-4 letter positional words (MWPD), 5 letter positional words (MWPD), 6 letter positional words (MWPD), 11-18 letter positional words (MWPD). Also available is a hard-cover book, the Instant Word Finder, based on words from 2 to 8 letters in length from three collegiate dictionaries (Webster’s, Funk & Wagnalls, Random House).

3) Anagram dictionaries: Unscrambler, words from 2 to 7 letters (MWPD) rearranged with letters in alphabetical order. Also available in limited supply is an imported anagram dictionary (could this be the Nuttall Dictionary of Anagrams, first published by Warne in 1937?).

4) Reverse-alphabetical dictionary: Termination Dictionary, a hard-cover imported book which alphabetizes words by their final letter.