LE CHATELIER’S PRINCIPLE

The good news on the radio

is that even old people

grow some neurons. Now

prior to that, I confess

I worried a spell about

just doing them in. But

I really shouldn’t have,

knowing that deep in

equilibrium is in charge --

things, I mean your mo-

lecular things, doing their

razzmatazz thingamajig

in both directions

at the same time. It’s

easy to forget, I admit --

the “equi” and the “librium”

both fool you nothing

is happening; it’s like

your neighbor at the play,

all of a sudden you

don’t hear her breathing

-- is she alive, or just

quietly asleep -- and you

are faced with a real

decision: oh, experiment

is a tough mistress --

should you pinch her?

Now where was I? Ah yes,

a reproductive biologist, a

Life Peer with a *yarmulka*

told me we lose cells, die

a little, even the first days

after fertilization. So it’s

in, at it both ways. And out.