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I learnt of a new expression the other day. It's called the 'phenotype gap'. This, apparently, was coined in response to a recognition that we still have little understanding of the ways in which events occurring at the molecular level are translated into the growth and functioning of whole organisms. Coincidentally it has also been recognised that there is a shortage of people out there who have the expertise for these investigations. These sentiments are not new to members of the BPS. A letter, with the former President, Chris Gibson, as a signatory, was sent to the Office of Science and Technology earlier this year (see *The Phycologist*, Number 58), emphasising the serious consequences associated with the decline in support for research on whole organisms. Hans Meidner, former Professor of Biology at the University of Stirling, who sadly died recently, carried out a number of outstanding studies in the area of stomatal functioning and photosynthesis, and probably spent most of his scientific career trying to bridge the plant phenotype gap. One of my recollections of Hans Meidner was of a direct, straight talking person and I wondered what his interpretation of this terminology might have been. Plant physiology, perhaps?

A number of important items, including the minutes from the 49th Annual General Meeting, are included with the current issue of 'The Phycologist'. The most important of these is probably the programme for the Jubilee meeting. Information on travel, registration and the conference venues being used for this meeting are also enclosed, for the assistance of those attending, as are details of a new BPS-supported publication on the Freshwater Algal Flora of the British Isle, the first modern account to be published. There's also a 20% discount for BPS members! Finally, please don't forget to complete the enclosed membership form and send this in as soon as possible.

I should also remind you again of the auction, now an established and important part of the BPS proceedings, which was held over from the previous meeting. As well as being of considerable entertainment value it also provides a valuable source of funds for the society. If you have

