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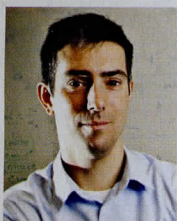
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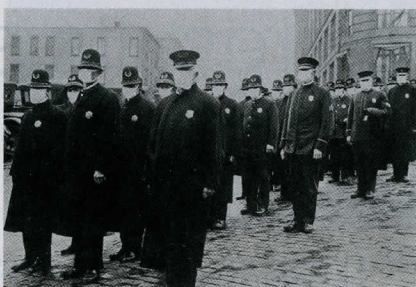
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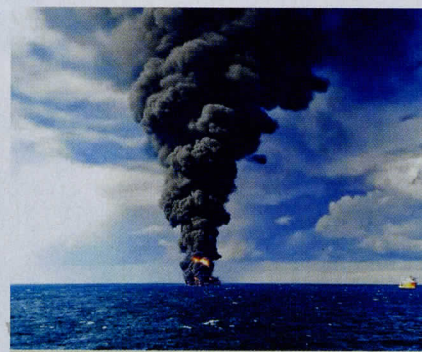
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Brain drain

Lymphatic vessels remove waste products from the body's tissues. In this week's issue, Jonathan Kipnis and his colleagues show that this system is also used by the brain. Macromolecular waste in the cerebral fluids is drained through lymphatic vessels located within the meninges — the membranes that cover the brain. They find that cognitive function is reduced if the meningeal lymphatics become impaired in normal mice. If the meningeal lymphatics are disrupted, clearance of the protein amyloid- β is impaired, leading to accumulation in the brain, which worsens amyloid pathology in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. [PAGES 172 & 185](#)

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