

## World's Debt to Science

General Science—Psychology

J. McKEEN CATTELL, quoted by Albert E. Wiggam in *Exploring Your Mind* (Brentano's):

We shall have in due time a scientific psychology of human welfare, a psychology of the things that are beautiful, good and true, but it will not come by talking about the laws of the mind, but by carefully and laboriously measuring mental operations and processes: we can apply these known measurable and predictable laws of mind to human welfare; for in the end science has no meaning or value other than in its usefulness.

And is it not inspiring to reflect how useful science has been—the most useful thing in all the world? Within even the past one hundred and fifty years science has increased fourfold the productivity of labor; it has doubled the length of human life. Science has made it possible for each to work at a routine task half as long as formerly and at the same time to consume twice as much wealth as formerly. Fourteen hours of labor in which women and children were forced to share formerly provided only hovels, lice and black bread for most people and luxuries for a very few. But now, owing entirely to science, seven hours of labor will supply comfortable homes, warm clothes and healthful food for all. If the resources provided by science were properly distributed, that is, if we had an adequate applied social and economic psychology, there is now sufficient wealth to enable all to share in the desirable luxuries that science has created, and to enjoy to the full measure of each one's natural capacity the most nearly ultimate goods of life, namely, home, friends, things to do, freedom, self-respect.

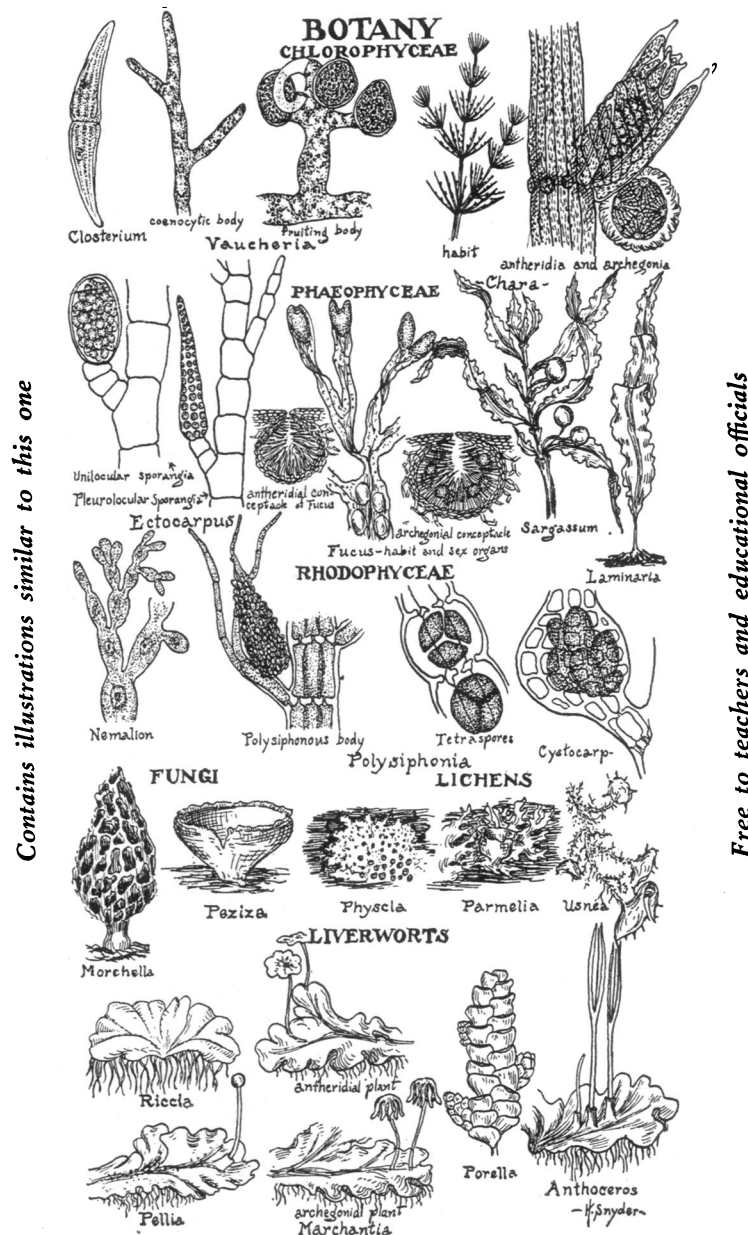
Science has abolished slavery, the terrible thing upon which past civilizations were mainly built; over a great part of the world it has abolished pestilence and famine. Of the three evil fates, war, pestilence and famine, only war survives from a prescientific and barbarous past. It is still true that much in the modern world is crude and ugly; instincts are atrophied, impulses aborted, and these must be replaced by the products of a science of psychology before living can become free and fine. Those who speak of science as materialistic have narrow thoughts and are themselves lacking in the idealism they so loudly proclaim.

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