

thews, librarian of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Miss Margery Quigley, librarian of the Montclair, N. J. Public Library; Miss Sabra M. Vought, librarian of the U. S. Office of Education; Prof. Douglas Waples, of the University of Chicago's Graduate Library School; Watson Davis, president of the American Documentation Insti-

tute and chairman of the delegation. Others attending the Congress included: Dr. R. H. Draeger, surgeon in the U. S. Navy; Dr. Atherton Seidell of the National Institute of Health; Dr. J. T. Vance of the Library of Congress; Prof. Carroll D. Champlin of Pennsylvania State College; and Miss Jose Meyer of the Library of Congress.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

anything but a mighty structure for the comparison, reconciliation and synthesis of common guiding ideas for the whole world. What is gathered will be digested and the results returned through the channels of education, literature and the press to every individual in the planetary community.

Please do not imagine that I am indulging in any fantasy when I talk of your work and your accumulations as the rudimentary framework of a world brain. It is either that or nothing.

Mental Organization

I am speaking of a process of mental organization throughout the world which I believe to be as inevitable as anything can be in human affairs. All the distresses and horrors of the present time are fundamentally intellectual. The world has to pull its mind together, and this is the beginning of its efforts. Civilization is a Phoenix. It perishes in flames and even as it dies it is born again. This synthesis of knowledge upon which you are working is the necessary beginning of a new world.

It is good to be meeting here in Paris where the first encyclopedia of power was made. It would be impossible to overrate our debt to Diderot and his associates. It is good for the representatives from forty countries to be breathing the clear, comprehensive and systematic mental atmosphere of France, to be recreating themselves in the presence of its sympathetic constructive understanding.

Again I would thank our hosts for bringing this Congress together here and enabling a number of widely scattered workers to realize something of the true greatness of the task to which they have devoted themselves.

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DOCUMENTATION

Today's Distress and Horrors Basically Intellectual—Wells

“Race Brain” Can Now Be Duplicated and Preserved From Destruction; “Civilization is a Phoenix”

By H. G. WELLS

In an address before the World Congress of Universal Documentation, Paris

(Mr. Wells opened his address by explaining that he approached the work of the Congress from quite another angle than most of the other members. He acknowledged the admirable hospitality tendered the gathering and the energy and organizing power of Dr. Jean Gerard, president of the Congress, and his able associates. He said that he liked to think that he is a *precursor* of a growing appreciation of the necessity, importance and promise of the work of documentation by the outside world.)

I SAY I come in from quite another angle, whether I am an intruder or whether I am—as I like to think I am—a *precursor* of a growing appreciation of the necessity, importance and promise of your work by the outside world.

It is dawning upon us, we lay observers, that this growing work of documentation and bibliography, is in fact nothing less than the beginning of a world brain, a common world brain. What you are making, we realize, is a sort of cerebrum for humanity, a cerebral cortex, which, when it is completely developed, will constitute a memory and also a perception of current reality for the entire human race. This is exciting the imagination of some of us very greatly.

Plainly what is indicated is a unified and uniform organization.

Same In All Lands

Knowledge is the same in all lands and countries.

As Mr. Watson Davis is here to re-

mind us, it need not now have any single local habitation. It need not have the vulnerability of physical material centralization because the continually increasing facilities of photography render reduplication of our indices and records continually easier and cheaper. In these days of destruction, violence and general insecurity, it is comforting to think that the brain of mankind, the race brain, can exist in numerous identical replicas throughout the world in Peru, Iceland, Wales, New Zealand, as well as here in Paris. Workers in any part of the world may contribute to the growth.

At first our activities are necessarily mainly receptive. We begin most easily with the documentation of concrete facts, but *ideas are also facts* and I do not see how this new and great encyclopedia, this race brain whose foundations you are laying, can fail to develop into

DOCUMENTATION

How Documentation Promotes Intellectual World Progress

By WATSON DAVIS

(The address of the head of the American Delegation to the World Congress of Universal Documentation, Paris.)

THROUGH the daily, flowing, unending stream of the written and pictorial record of all phases of life, the peoples of the world have their best op-

portunity of knowing each other as intellectually motivated communities striving to progress and make the world a better place in which to live.

What a wide compass is included in this conception of “documentation.” Letters, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, books, business and official records, manuscripts, notebooks, motion pictures, radio transcriptions, phonograph records, photographs, drawings and paintings,