

GENERAL SCIENCE

# Honesty Is Automatically Enforced Upon Scientists

## False Ideas in Chemistry or Physics Result in Elimination of Perpetrator, Says Noted Astronomer

**T**HE SCIENTIST is more honest in his work than is the politician because lack of morality in science is likely to destroy the experimenter, declared Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory and vice president of Science Service. It is perversion of international morality, he believes, not of gadgetry, that has resulted in the epochal decay of present-day society.

Dr. Shapley's statement was issued in explaining the purpose of a Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion to be held in New York on Sept. 9.

"Morality in physics and chemistry is to some extent forced," he said. "The scientist, naturally, is as human in his irrationality as others. Survival, however, requires a kind of honesty. The unmoral experimenter poisons himself or blows himself up.

"If only a false economic doctrine, while still prenatal, would also electrocute its progenitor! Or an education schism backfire during fabrication and reduce its advocate to impotent illiteracy and confusion!"

### Closer Contacts Urged

A closer communion between the physical, psychological and social sciences was urged by Dr. Shapley as a means toward development for the social and psychological sciences of "a logical and rigorously experimental method similar to that which has brought such achievement in the physical sciences."

"The value of these methods," he said, "are well-publicized by the success of everyday tools. You rely on your electrical refrigerator, designed by the engi-

neers; but you trust mighty little your politicians and diplomats. Thousands of people ride in automobiles with complete confidence in their mechanism. They worry not at all about the engine; reserving their anxiety for the unverified assertions of their congressman, for the economic system, for the treachery of man in fields where a forced morality does not exist."

"If we are to escape descent into darkness," he declared, "the scientist must join forces with other intellectual leaders, because on the advances in the educational, social and political fields, does the advance of our science depend. The September Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion is an effort in just this direction. Those of us who projected the Conference hope that from it will come a better understanding between the different fields of learning that we represent,

as well as a dynamic restatement of the rights of man and the democratic way of life."

*Science News Letter, August 31, 1940*

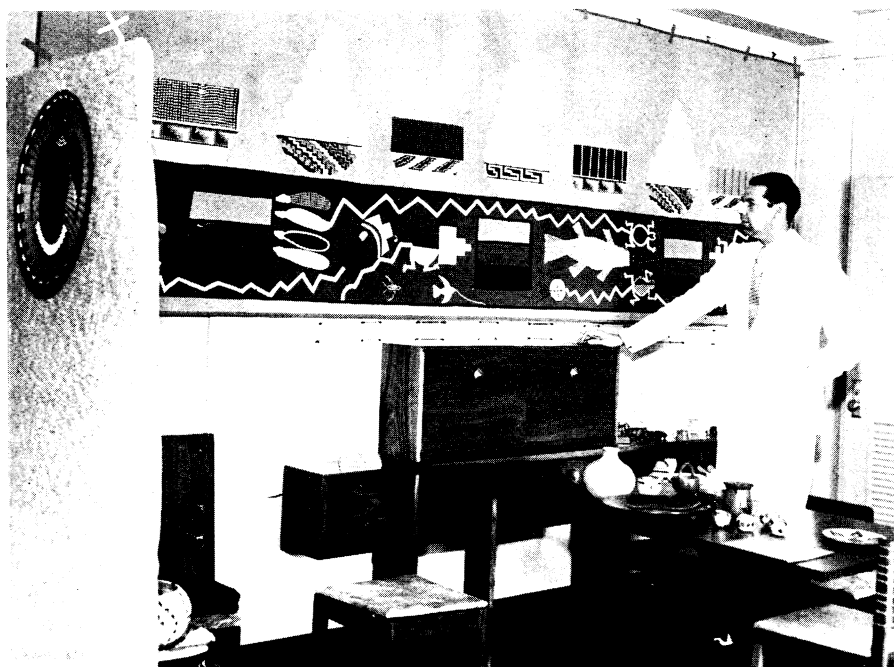
ARCHAEOLOGY

## Murals 30 Layers Deep Found in Indian Ruins

**E** VOLUTION of some of the oldest mural art in the United States revealed by recent excavations at Indian ruins in Awotovi, Arizona, will be shown for the first time to modern America in an exhibit being prepared in Washington, D. C.

Life-sized, colorful copies of the paintings which inspired generations of Indians, as they held ceremonies in their religious chambers, are being completed at the Office of Indian Affairs, under direction of René d'Harnoncourt, specialist in Indian arts.

Twenty to thirty layers of paintings were detected on some of the buried walls, when archaeologists of Harvard University's Peabody Museum probed the art history preserved by the Indian custom of over-painting their ceremonial wall decorations. Mural art in prehistoric United States country is shown evolving from simple lines and figures to beautifully composed pictures. So vivid and



ARTIST UNKNOWN

*One of the elaborate ancient Indian murals, as prepared for showing at the Museum of Modern Art. Colors and design are very much like those in present-day Indian work. Examining the picture is René d'Harnoncourt.*

## ● RADIO

Mr. Oren C. Durham, chief botanist of the Abbott Laboratories, will talk on the prospects for the 1940 hayfever season, as guest speaker on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Thursday, Sept. 5, 4:00 p.m., EDST, 3:00 EST, 2:00 CST, 1:00 MST, 12:00 PST.

Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Thursday.