

GENERAL SCIENCE

Report Science to Layman

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► THE SCIENTIST has a duty to report his scientific findings to the general public, and he should make reports the average layman can understand, Dr. Thomas Park, zoologist at the University of Chicago and president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, told SCIENCE SERVICE.

"We are moving faster in this area than ever before," he said, but the scientist still has not gone far enough in public communication. He credited recent advances in communication since Sputnik to the "curiosity and interest of our young people.

"This and a general rising public interest in the impact of science has stimulated scientists to respond more freely," Dr. Park said.

"One of the best ways to get scientific information to the public is through such organizations as the AAAS, Science Service and other science information media, as well as by direct contact and communication with talented science writers," he said. The AAAS is the world's largest group of scientific organizations, and includes science writing, education and information groups.

"The scientist also has a responsibility to speak as a citizen," Dr. Park said. "But when he speaks as an intelligent and sensitive citizen on community matters, he should not presume to speak with scientific authority except on matters within his competence.

"Anything I would say on the national and local implications of nuclear development, for example, would have no scientific validity. This is not my scientific field and I can speak only as an informed and concerned citizen rather than as a scientist," he emphasized.

However, participation in public affairs by the scientist is important. It helps break the barrier that traditionally has set the scientist apart from the community, Dr. Park said.

An important area of community interest in which Dr. Park can speak with scientific authority concerns population growth and development, and the forces affecting them.

Dr. Park has done research on the basic scientific problems of population since 1927. Using insects such as the flour beetle, he has investigated such subjects as birth rates, death rates, population crowding, and competition and its effect on population numbers.

"We have proved many times over, working with experimental insect population, that when population becomes too crowded, bad things happen. The death rate increases while the birth rate decreases. There is an increase in disease and malformations and a general physiological deterioration or weakening.

"These things occur even though food

supplies are ample. We know, of course, that overcrowding on the human level also has ill results; but generally speaking, it would not be entirely correct to say that what has been learned from insect population studies applies directly to the human population," Dr. Park said.

Dr. Park participated in the General Symposium of the 127th annual AAAS meeting in New York.

• Science News Letter, 79:3 January 7, 1961

Men Will Serve Machines

► FUTURE SPACEMEN will play "second fiddle" to instruments launched from earth by man to perform vital space functions, Dr. S. F. Singer, University of Maryland physicist, predicted.

"Sooner or later the instrumentation systems, built up to perform vital space functions, will become so complicated and expensive that we will need man in the very inglorious role of a maintenance and repair man, for complex television and communication satellites, or to the complex astronomical observatories in space," he told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in New York.

Dr. Singer described man as "the only non-linear, 150-pound servomechanical sys-

tem which can be mass-produced by unskilled labor."

Although man may have to serve machines in space, he will also be serving himself. Studying the biological system that is man in the absence of earth "will be useful to us because we are men and can absorb the information and apply it for our benefit," Dr. Singer said.

Man in space will assume his most important role in the military field because he is an ideal mechanism for providing the judgment, selection and filtering necessary to make a reconnaissance system operate most efficiently.

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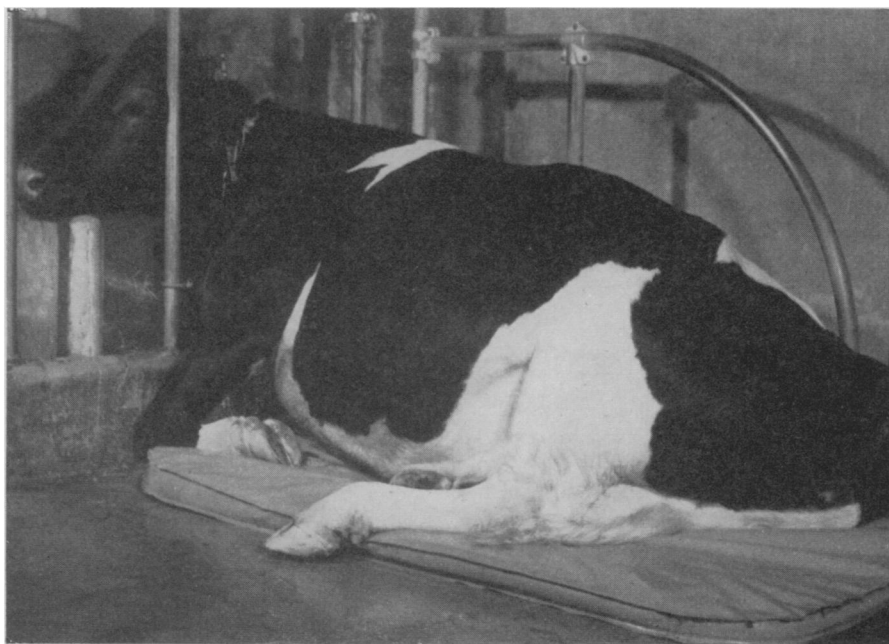
Minerals Found in China

► RECENT VALUABLE MINERAL discoveries in Red China are due to the vast increase in the number of her trained scientists since the Communist regime came to power, Dr. Edward C. T. Chao of the U. S. Geological Survey in Washington, D. C., reported.

Prior to 1950, before the Communists assumed control over China, only about 200 scientists were actively engaged in geological research. Now Red China boasts over 21,000 "geological workers," he reported at the 127th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in New York.

Among the many new and large mineral deposits discovered by this corps of Chinese geological workers is the molybdenum reserve, now rated "number one in the world."

Molybdenum is one of the important hard, light, temperature-resistant metals par-



CONTENTED COW—The newest idea for getting more and better milk is foam mattresses for cows. More sanitary than straw, the nylon covered mattress can be kept clean when hosed with water while the cow goes off for milking. During tests of the "Kowlays" milk yields were increased and bruising of hocks and mastitis were almost eliminated.