law. The virus produced influenza in ferrets, just as the British investigators had reported. Much to the American scientists' surprise, however, they found that the ferrets after recovering from an influenza attack were immune to the distemper virus given for the routine tests of the latter.

Claims have been made before now that influenza and distemper are related but so far no definite proof has been presented of the identity or relationship of these viruses. Drs. Eichhorn and Pyle believe their experiments strongly point to such a relationship.

Science News Letter, July 14, 1934

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Neglected Because Scientists Glorify Analysis

BECAUSE many scientists have taken a perfectly reputable Greek word and twisted it far out of the meaning it had for the Greeks who first used it, scientists today are having ever-increasing difficulty maintaining public confidence and material support. Thus, in effect, declared Prof. Wm. E. Ritter of the University of California, in a report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Surely no half-observant, sensitive worker in science today can avoid anxiety for its welfare," said Prof. Ritter. "The ground for such anxiety that may be noticed first is the tendency shown everywhere (except, ominously, in Russia) to make scientific research a special target of economy in financial expenditures. Illumined by what we have all heard and seen in this matter during the last two years particularly, it would be mere waste of time to prove the reality of that tendency."

Even graver than the withdrawal of financial support, however, Dr. Ritter considered the suspicion with which science has come to be viewed by many of the world's most influential intellects in non-scientific fields.

He expressed the feeling that this lack of confidence in science, by both legislators who control treasuries and philosophers who set fashions in opinions, is due in large part to the activities of many scientists in the past, who have over-stressed the value of analytic science, the kind of science that "picks things to pieces to see what makes them tick," and who have set this analytic science up as distinct from, and opposed to, synthetic science which views as wholes, and the great inclusive universe of things as itself a whole.

So far has this glorification of analysis proceeded, Prof. Ritter pointed out, that its typical and outstanding development has captured for itself the name "physics," which in its original Greek form "phüsis" meant simply "nature."

To the Greeks "phüsis," or "nature" had both analytic and synthetic shades of meaning, Prof. Ritter's inquiries into the uses of the word have convinced him, though they strongly favored the synthetic aspect at the expense of the analytic.

Prof. Ritter feels that to regain its lost ground and make further progress, science must re-emphasize the principle that analysis and synthesis are not opposed, but properly form a continuum.

Science News Letter, July 14, 1934

ETHNOLOGY

Blackfoot Indian Makes Sign Language Dictionary

THE dictionary of the Indian sign language is at last being finished.

Richard Sanderville, 70-year-old Blackfoot Indian, has come to Washington, D. C., to put the Indians' universal language on scientific record. He makes the signs with his hands. They are photographed by motion picture camera. They will be recorded on cards, several thousand cards, together with the English words they represent. And so the dictionary will be made.

At the Bureau of American Ethnology, where Mr. Sanderville is at work, he paused long enough to show how Indians talk when they meet other Indians of some foreign-speaking tribe.

A man on a horse is indicated by forking two fingers of one hand and setting them astride the fingers of the other hand. A proud person is shown by flinging back the head and holding one fist under the chin, thumb up, and the other fist below that thumb up.

ISN'T IT HOT!

The Indians have a sign for it—the hot weather, that is to say. Richard Sanderville, 70-year-old Blackfoot Indian has come to Washington to finish a dictionary of the Indian sign language for the Bureau of American Ethnology. To make the sign for hot weather, you simply spread out your hands before you, like the sun's rays bearing down. It's expressive, all right.

Indian sign language is old, but it adds new words to keep up with the times. An automobile is shown by jiggling the hands as if steering a wheel. For an airplane, you wave the arms at sides and then rotate one hand like a propellor.

Indians from coast to coast understand the international language of signs, says Mr. Sanderville, though the younger generation pays less attention to it.

Science News Letter, July 14, 1934

CHEMISTRY

More Radium in Ocean Mud Than in Rocks of Dry Land

MORE radium exists in the mud of the sea than in the ordinary rocks of dry land, Dr. Robley D. Evans of the University of California has found. His tests show that radium is being deposited constantly by ocean waters.

There is no hope of mining sea mud for radioactivity. Dr. Evans made his experiments merely to test his new method of detecting extremely minute amounts of radium and radon gas emitted by radium. Each ounce of mud contains three trillionths of an ounce of radium.

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