

boy" throws doubt on his life among the baboons.

A blow on his head, which Lucas said was an ostrich kick, may have been an ordinary skull fracture. Such an injury might have caused his unusual behavior, supposed to have been a result of an unusual childhood among the baboons.

A physician of Grahamstown, in South Africa, Dr. Dru Drury, dug into the strange case of Lucas, the baboon boy, now working on a farm. The facts just unearthed seem to be that the half-breed boy was admitted to Grahamstown Mental Hospital in 1904 suffering from an injury of the head. Diagnosis was "acute mania." His mother and father were un-

known. No mention of baboons or of the ostrich kick occurs in the hospital records.

The police story, hearsay evidence now because the officer who is supposed to have made the rescue is now dead, placed the finding of Lucas among the baboons at Burghersdorp, too many miles from Grahamstown to make it plausible that he would have been hospitalized there.

Prof. Foley concludes that the baboon boy of South Africa must be listed among the unconfirmed stories of "animal children," rather than as an authentic case of a human child living among animals.

Details will be published in the *American Journal of Psychology* (May).

Science News Letter, June 1, 1940

GENERAL SCIENCE

Not Science, But Philosophy And Religion Failed World

Scientists Should Explain Bearing of Discoveries On Social Problems and Encourage Scientific Methods

ANSWERING those critics who have blamed science for the horrors of modern warfare which threatens civilization, Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory and internationally renowned scientist, declared that "it is philosophy and religion which have betrayed us, not the engineers."

Science, he declared, must turn its attention to two things, both of them of high social importance: "the public explanation of the bearing of our past and current discoveries on the problems of life and society, and the encouragement of the use of at least semi-scientific methods in the treatment of confused human problems in the hope of eventual emancipation from the slavery of slogans."

Dr. Shapley spoke on science in a symposium on "Our Expanding Horizons" before the annual meeting of the Associated Harvard Clubs in New York City. Other speakers discussed education, foreign affairs and industry.

After pointing briefly to recent research in various fields of science, Dr. Shapley said it would be possible to guess what lies ahead, "the future conquests of intellectual man's scientific curiosity—if indeed ahead there lies scientific curiosity or intellectual man, or anything but a trough in the rhythmic curve of civilization—anything but an

epoch of realism, marked by greed and inanity.

"But I do not venture to forecast detail," he continued, "partly because you are now thinking of submarines and bombers, blood and explosives—and perhaps you are unkindly saying, 'See what you scientists have done to civilization.'"

This charge—"that science has outrun itself, that it has brought woe, and pain and confusion, more than happiness, comfort and order"—are made almost exclusively, he said, "by vain people whose failure to understand the simplest techniques have produced an inferiority and a defense.

"If you do believe that the present tragic world order should be charged to physicists, chemists and engineers, then I assume that you have not thought it through," he declared. "There is undoubtedly superficial justification for a hasty opinion of that sort; but is it not true that the tragic decay of the present comes not from the abuse of the sciences and their products, but more probably from the abuse of the ordinary rules of rational intercourse between rational human beings; the abuse of ethics and logic?"

"The perversion is of international morality and not of gadgetry. It is philosophy and religion that have betrayed us—not the engineers."

To the contention that the radio helps

the charlatan to reach his dupes, Dr. Shapley answered that the same radio "should help still more in releasing people from their natural dupehood."

Science, he emphasized, has "an important social job on the horizon, namely the intrusion of rationality and logical methodology into non-scientific fields. I do not know how to intrude successfully—perhaps by education, perhaps by example.

"A great contribution would result if we could depopularize slogans—those common opiates of thought. Mankind suffers from the patten of slogans, the catchphrase philosophies and other cheap substitutes for reasoning.

"Morality in physics and chemistry, I am intimating, is to some extent forced. The scientist is naturally as human in his irrationality as others. But survival requires a kind of honesty. The amoral experimenter poisons himself or blows himself up.

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

Science News Letter, June 1, 1940

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