

## Do You Know?

*Aluminum pipe* is used in surface irrigation because of its lightness.

Most varieties of *lettuce* send up seed stems rapidly in hot weather.

The concentration of *calcium* in the blood of laying hens is normally about twice that found in the blood of roosters.

No *whale oil* is used in the United States in making margarine, although large quantities are used for this purpose in certain other countries.

There are many types of *mahogany wood*, but mahogany from Cuba and Santo Domingo is preferred in fine furniture making because of its close grain, silky texture and beautiful color.

*Roasted eggs* may soon be on the market; in roasting they are whirled briefly at 235 degrees Fahrenheit, which centers the yolk, and the cooked egg will keep for months at ordinary temperatures.

*Tantalum*, which has some of the physical characteristics of steel and the chemical characteristics of glass, is used by bone surgeons; when implanted in the body, there is an almost complete absence of fibrous tissue reaction to it.

GENERAL SCIENCE

# Science at Parting of Ways

For future progress it must have peace, freedom from outside control, recruitment of young workers, National Academy President declares.

► SCIENCE, like all the civilization of which it is a part, is now at the parting of the ways, Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the National Academy of Sciences, indicated in a lecture before the Yale chapter of Sigma Xi, national research honor society. If it is to fulfill its great prewar promise it must have a long period of peace, freedom from military or other outside control, and the renewed and continual training of considerable numbers of young research workers.

The war practically stopped fundamental scientific research in this country, Dr. Jewett told his audience. Men who had been doing this kind of work were diverted into the war-spurred search for immediate military and industrial applications of the great body of facts that constituted our intellectual stockpile. They accomplished great and necessary things—but no additions were made to the stockpile.

These men, our basic research corps, are now returning to their regular tasks. There have been no really severe losses from their number, but they are all four or five years older. And behind them there is a lost generation of research students—the several thousands of exceptionally talented young people who should have been in the universities and other graduate training schools during the past five years but who have been in the armed services or in civilian war work instead. Those thousands of lost man-years of scientific work can never be made up; the best we can do now is to avoid any further loss of time as far as possible and get the young men back into research training as fast as they are demobilized.

Wartime work on application of research results gained in prewar years accomplished marvels under rather strict military controls, but such controls will never do for normal scientific work, the speaker emphatically declared.

“No matter what plausible arguments are advanced, fundamental science cannot flourish in peacetime under the regimentation of a wartime setup,” he told his listeners. “Fundamental science can be aided—it cannot be directed. Its fruits

are those of the free mind and no one is wise enough to know what another man's brain cells may produce if afforded opportunity to function freely.”

Support for future research, Dr. Jewett said, divides itself into two phases. Applied or industrial research will not have a particularly difficult time in getting all the backing it needs. Big corporations have their own research staffs; smaller concerns have access to the facilities of such special establishments as the Mellon or Battelle Institutes.

“In the field of fundamental science,” he continued, “the picture is not quite so clear. There has been much talk that in the future much of the work that has been done in educational institutions will be taken over by institutes devoted exclusively to research. . . . I have a strong feeling, however, that the great bulk of the contributions will continue to come from educational institutions where research and teaching are combined.”

Science News Letter, April 13, 1946

All-aluminum ships are planned in Norway and may soon be under construction; the country has an abundance of electric power to produce aluminum locally and to use in welding the metal plates in the shipyards.

Among new fibers for cloth are *Ardil*, made from peanut protein; *Soylon*, a soybean base material; *elastic nylon* with long-range rubber-like elasticity; and *resin fiber* exceptionally resistant to chemical and biological deterioration.



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