

a representative of the press. He asked for more mutual tolerance and patience between scientists and newspapermen, and expressed the belief that news stories on scientific subjects would be more satisfactory both to editors and to scientists if the latter would give intelligent reporters their cooperation.

Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, after warning newspapermen against trying to make "good copy" and big headlines out of researches still in the discussion stage, concluded with the suggestion that the knowledge of interest by the public in such unfinished problems may stimulate scientists to express their findings more clearly and understandably when they finally reach them.

Dr. A. A. Noyes, director of the Gates Chemical Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, made two suggestions: first, the desirability of making clear the evidential status of any announcement put forth as a news item; second, the possibility of using younger scientists in the various laboratories and universities as local correspondents.

Concept of Accuracy

Prof. E. B. Wilson of Harvard University School of Public Health called attention to the differing aspects of the concept of accuracy, depending on the audience to whom a given scientific discovery or fact is to be presented. Details that are absolutely essential before a group of scientists may only befog the picture if they are used before a lay audience, and thus destroy instead of making accurate the image that gets into the minds destined to receive it.

Dr. Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, registered strong approval of a new Science Service enterprise, the distribution of low-priced phonograph records giving brief talks by leading scientists, and expressed the hope that further issues of this sort would be made.

Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, voiced his faith in the ability of "the man in the street" to understand science if it is properly presented. He said, "I would much rather talk about relativity to an intelligent lawyer or an intelligent clergyman than to a bad physicist."

Dr. Francis G. Benedict, director of the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, in Boston, stressed the desirability of care and accuracy in reporting medical discoveries, because of the great immediate im-

portance of these to human life, and the possible lamentable consequences of even apparently minor error.

Dr. Paul R. Heyl of the U. S. Bureau of Standards suggested that general summaries or reviews of progress in science might be well received, and would be useful to scientists as well as to the lay public.

Dr. A. E. Kennelly of Harvard University called attention to possible errors of impression that readers might receive if undue emphasis is placed on the wrong point in reporting a scientific discovery or event. He also made a plea for the expression of quantitative results in the metric system, "the international language of science."

Prof. Charles R. Stockard of Cornell University Medical College reinforced previously expressed pleas for a high degree of accuracy in reporting medical news. He further suggested the desirability of explaining properly how animal experimentation is used in working out medical advances, as a counter to antivivisection propaganda.

Prof. Joel H. Hildebrand of the University of California expressed his desire that science articles intended for the general public give not merely the news of discoveries but that they also stress the importance of the scientific method in thinking and working.

Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif., declared that his relations with the press had always been satisfactory, because he was willing to meet intelligent newspapermen half way. He recommended cooperation to his fellow-scientists.

Prof. Richard M. Field, Princeton University geologist, called attention to the natural interest of the public in the economic aspects of science, and in economic questions generally.

Dr. F. P. Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, commended Science Service for having "stuck to its last," and said he hoped it would continue to do so.

Dr. F. G. Cottrell, chemist and inventor of the precipitation process, laid fresh emphasis on the necessity of presenting science as news to newspapers.

Capt. J. F. Hellweg, superintendent of the U. S. Naval Observatory, spoke briefly on "what should not be printed."

Prof. Knight Dunlap of the Johns Hopkins University contrasted conditions in science news reporting since Science Service entered the field with what they were before that time, and expressed the hope that this organiza-

tion would continue its work independently, not only for the work it is doing itself but for its stimulating effect on the science reporting of the other newspaper syndicates.

Dr. W. H. Howell, chairman of the division of medical sciences of the National Research Council and chairman of the executive committee of Science Service, closed the discussion with an expression of thanks to his fellow-scientists for their cooperation in the work of Science Service.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1932

PSYCHOLOGY

Leaders, Criminal or Not, Have Traits in Common

PSYCHOLOGICAL tests indicate that the leader of gangland may owe his supremacy to the very same traits that make another man an officer in the army or a leader in student activities at a university. The tests were given by Dr. W. H. Cowley, of Ohio State University to 20 criminal leaders from the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, Ill.; to 20 criminal followers at the same institution; 20 non-commissioned officers and 20 privates from Fort Sheridan, Ill.; and 16 student leaders and 16 student followers from the University of Chicago.

Certain traits, as revealed by the tests, were found to be held by all three groups of leaders and not by their followers. These are self-confidence, finality of judgment, "drive" or lack of inhibition, and speed of decision.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1932



The Science Service radio address next week will be on the subject of

R

MAKING BACTERIA INVISIBLE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

A

Dr. James P. Simonds

D

professor of pathology, Northwestern University Medical School, will be the speaker.

I

FRIDAY, MAY 13

O

at 2:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time



Over Stations of The Columbia Broadcasting System