

GENERAL SCIENCE

# New Declaration of Faith Is Aimed at Intolerance

## European Civilization Can Be Preserved Only By Devoting Energy Toward Developing the Good in It

**A** NEW scientist's oath, pledging "no loyalty greater than that to the task of preserving truth, toleration, and justice in the coming world order" is being circulated in London as a defense against the advance of intolerance.

Presented to the British scientific world through prominent publication in the pages of *Nature*, leading science journal, (May 7) the author, L. L. Whyte of London, hopes that cultural, educational and technical institutions throughout the world will offer it to their members as a declaration of scientific faith. He visualizes the new oath as playing a role similar to that of the Hippocratic Oath of more than 2000 years ago, which promoted standards among medical practitioners.

"In the last few years several of the most enlightened communities of Europe have been dispersed, and the principles of justice and tolerance openly challenged," Mr. Whyte explains. "More than this, the conception of the objective truth which is the basis of science and of all human progress is being steadily undermined. European civilization has had profound failings, but we must

either devote our energies to maintaining and developing what is good in it or accept a collapse into a barbarism of violence and intolerance.

"The greatest danger today lies in the complacent illusion—seen so often in history and now prevalent in the more fortunate countries—that civilized traditions are an inalienable legacy which can be enjoyed indefinitely by generations which are no longer ready to make sacrifices for them.

"It is my belief that men in all countries who do not wish to betray the tradition they have inherited must now discard false modesty and announce clearly for what they stand. We do not deserve and we shall not long retain the fruits of a civilization to which we do not declare and prove our active loyalty."

*Science News Letter, May 28, 1938*

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## Science Gives New Motives For Finer and Better Lives

**T**HE GREAT cry of economics and politics has been for a better distribution of the material goods that we

use in our daily life—food, clothing, shelter, and a million other things that money is used to get.

In the intellectual and sociological circles, another great fundamental demand is beginning to make itself heard. All the "goods"—good things—of life must be more widely available to the people. This means the facts of science, the educational facilities, the fine thinking and feeling that provides the motivation of a new and better order of living.

A complication pointed out by Prof. Eduard C. Lindeman is that there exists at the present time no common pattern of values which may be said to serve as a guide to contemporary civilization. Dr. Lawrence K. Frank feels that the ologies have not been made meaningful for human conduct. He wants someone to interpret science in terms of "Now I lay me down to sleep."

The new culture, contrasting with older views that are ingrained for most of us and the system under which we live, shows that it is not necessary "to sacrifice others to personal salvation." The old obedience to ethical and legal rules, come what may, is shifted in face of the query "What does this do to others?" Man is coming to recognize that culture is man-made, and that the source of ultimate authority is man himself.

The new patterns that are coming out of the minds of the thinkers into the practical world impose great obligations and opportunities upon the scientists who are reordering our world whether we want it or not. Especially concerned are those who can tell us how to control our thoughts, emotions and conduct—those least charted science areas.

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## SCIENTISTS' OATH

**I** AM the inheritor of the tradition of civilization which has proved more lasting than empires. Whenever I use the language or the products of science I unconsciously pay homage to the countless men for whom no sacrifice was too great in the struggle to develop the human mind and establish the truth. Toleration and freedom are the heart of this tradition; for individual thought and love of truth are the basis not only of science, but also of justice and of civilization.

**I** DECLARE my loyalty to this tradition, my belief in the freedom of the individual to develop his talents for the enrichment of the community, and my conviction that man's community is now the whole human race, within which each nation must play its characteristic part. The natural balance between personal freedom and the proper demands of society, which is the life and health of civilization, is today doubly threatened: in certain societies by the denial of freedom and in the democratic countries by the irresponsibility of individuals. In the face of this threat:

**I** PLEDGE myself to use every opportunity for action to uphold the great tradition of civilization, to protect all those who may suffer for its sake, and to pass it on to the coming generations. I recognize no loyalty greater than that to the task of preserving truth, toleration, and justice in the coming world order.

PSYCHOLOGY

## School Governments Show Autocracies Breed Hate

**P**ERHAPS nowhere but in America could this happen.

Miniature governments—autocratic, democratic, and anarchistic—have been built, using school children as the citizens, to find out experimentally just what effect government has on the individual.

An autocratic, dictatorial government breeds hostility, it is clearly shown by this experiment, reported to the Midwestern Psychological Association by Dr. Kurt Lewin, of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station of the University of Iowa. The amount of hostility expressed by members of the autocratic