

## From Page 119

ganda with horrible inevitability, scientific work cannot continue.

Scientists are devising means of counterbalancing these dangers of intellectual suppression. A world organization of scientists to give militant attention to social problems is one possibility.

A more conscious effort through the mechanism of education, in school and out, is another possibility. A "world brain" taking the form of a world encyclopedia as suggested by H. G. Wells would provide the "Bible" of this movement, supplemented by the whole of the vast scientific literature.

How to carry this or any other method of scientific propaganda into the countries of censorship, suppression of freedom of speech and press, and concentration is another matter. A rising generation reared in ignorance of the long history of science, the centuries of struggle to attain the present state of our knowledge, may be difficult to reach when the artificial barriers of isolation are lowered.

### Parent of Democracy

Democracy is the child of science. Without the growth of rational intelligence, government by and in the interest of the common man would not have been possible. The facts and method of science must be known to all the people. In part this is the task of the schools but to a larger extent it is the duty of the press. In recent years newspapers have conscientiously reported and interpreted scientific advances in order that all may know and understand.

Making the world safe for science will make the world safe for democracy, a task at which warfare was a failure.

In this great undertaking all kinds of science must participate, not just the physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, etc. of the so-called "physical and natural sciences." It is a concern of economics, sociology, engineering, psychology, anthropology, the so-called social and applied sciences. Scientists who do not often meet must work together.

If the great scientific "push" is to be successful there will need to be more and freer discussion than has been traditional. Whether the new science movement takes the form of a great intellectual brotherhood, a new political party, or an infiltration into existing progressive movements, it must be articulate, self-assertive and combative within the limits of the scientific method. It must become a crusade with truth as its only dogma.

If science is to rescue the society it has created, and if the world at large is to preserve in freedom and tolerance the intellectual urge that gives it continual rebirth, there must be some mechanism, whether organized or not, that makes this possible.

The world of science has been one of the most successful of the loosely organized activities on this planet. It is rooted in the idea of free exchange of experiences and experiment, freedom to draw conclusions, test them, discard them if necessary, theorize and test again.

A gigantic flow of literature, books, journals, proceedings, in a medley of languages records and distributes the results of science. There are some 30,000 regularly issued periodicals in the fields

of science alone.

In a tolerant world this mechanism of distribution, plus educational efforts, is sufficient. When the free flow of distribution is impeded, the situation becomes dangerous. This is what has happened in recent years in the intolerant areas.

Nuclei of the new science crusade already exist as groups within existing intellectual organizations. They could coalesce into larger units, either bringing together the same brand of scientists from different countries or all scientists of each country. Add to them millions of scientifically-minded laymen, fuse the various units and there would be a new international organization of mankind capable of making the world rational and worth living in.

*Science News Letter, August 20, 1938*

### DEMOGRAPHY

## Seeks Geographic Clue To America's Notables

**W**HAT kind of background produces the most notables?

This question intrigues Americans. It is a familiar saying that "Most famous Americans are born on farms." Wealth and leadership go together, it is also claimed. Another theory is that level lands yield, not only crops, but leaders.

Now, Indiana University's professor of geography, Dr. Stephen S. Visher, has gathered statistics on thousands of Americans who have made good. His facts and figures provide new ammunition for the old argument as to how geography and fame are related. And, as Prof. Visher points out, despite sarcastic remarks about brain trusters, every one knows that experts and other leaders play a large role in our country.

His findings include:

1. Neither rugged nor flat country can justly claim special significance in producing notable Americans.

2. Present day notables come from a peculiar concentration of birth places. New England has produced about twice as many, in proportion to population, as middle Atlantic or north central states, nearly three times as many as Pacific states, and about six times as many as south central states.

3. Despite all this, New England has fallen off lamentably in its proportion of notables. New York and other seaboard states are also slipping. Mean-

while, north central states and the west are raising more leaders.

4. States that stand out as producing one kind of leader—scientists, for example—also produce many noted artists, executives, and professional men.

Many other points can be made from Dr. Visher's study. He closes:

"Areas yield most notables which contain most mentally alert, ambitious, persistent, energetic people, possessed of high ideals. Such people seek opportunities to use their abilities; they appreciate congenial associates and therefore congregate in desirable towns and in choice residential districts or suburbs of cities."

*Science News Letter, August 20, 1938*

## ● Radio

Every Friday at 7:30 p. m. EDT, 6:30 p. m. EST, 5:30 p. m. CST, 4:30 p. m. MST, or 3:30 p. m. PST, Science Service cooperates with the Columbia Broadcasting System in presenting over the Columbia coast to coast network a new series of "Adventures in Science" presenting dramatizations of important scientific advances and discussions by eminent scientists.

If You Are Interested in Better Health and Longer Life Read

### TROUBLES WE DON'T TALK ABOUT

By Dr. Joseph Franklin Montague

Well Known New York Intestinal Specialist

\$1 Cloth, 142 Pages Illustrated

● COLICITIS ● CONSTIPATION AND MANY OTHER AILMENTS

The HOME HEALTH LIBRARY, Inc. 516-5th Ave. New York City