

The Public Has a Right to Know—

Once the scientist worked in garret or secret den, concealing his discoveries from common men, priests, and kings who did not understand.

But now only the intricacies of science itself stand between the searchers for truth and laymen.

To translate science for the man in the street is the task of Science Service. It is the unique institution established for the purpose of disseminating scientific information to the public. It acts as a liaison agency between scientific circles and the world at large. It interprets original research and reports the meetings of learned societies in a way to enlighten the layman. The specialist is likewise a layman in every science except his own and he, too, needs to have new things explained to him in non-technical language.

Scientific progress is so rapid and revolutionary nowadays that no one can keep up with it from what he learned at school. Science Service endeavors to provide life-continuation courses in all the sciences.

In a democracy like ours it is particularly important that the people as a whole should so far as possible understand the aims and achievements of modern science, not only because of the value of such knowledge to themselves but because research directly or indirectly depends upon popular appreciation of its methods. In fact the success of democratic institutions, as well as the prosperity of the individual, may be said to depend upon the ability of people to distinguish between science and fakes, between the genuine expert and the pretender.

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