

P E R S P E C T I V E

Perspective is always important. And it is especially important at present. Like many words, "perspective" has several connotations, one of which is the "capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance; as, some folks cannot see the wood for the trees, while others have perspective." It might be added that other folks cannot see the trees for the forest: They ignore or disdain facts; hence all they know about the forest is that it is a forest and, very often, that is not enough. Perspective, sense of proportion, relates the trees to the forest and the forest to the trees; Facts are utilized to build concepts and concepts are used to interpret the significance of facts. Perspective results from intellectual effort and emotional reactions. No one is really educated if he cannot distinguish between facts and feelings as a basis for judgments and actions. Brain and heart are both useful, but the brain belongs in the head and the heart in the chest. When they are scrambled, the result approaches chaos.

In science we try to discover facts; we seek the truth. And we try to utilize the facts for social service. But do we always have the proper perspective in directing our efforts? Are we sure that our efforts are objective rather than subjective? Are we sure that we are trying to serve science and society rather than ourselves? Are we trying to advance science or are we trying to glorify ourselves? Are we trying to solve problems or are we trying merely to accumulate materials for publication?

Of course, we all think we are trying to render service. At least that is the clearest obligation of those scientists who still have the privilege of doing research instead of engaging in the grim business of war.

Is research worthwhile in a world at war? Technologic research in many fields not only is worthwhile but it is essential to successful prosecution of the war. But how about pure research? Here is the answer of Raymond B. Fosdick, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, in his Review for 1942: "With dwindling opportunities for pure research both in this country and abroad, the Foundation has tried to keep alive those projects in the biological sciences which are of high merit and which will help to maintain a continuity of tradition between the past and the future. In the opinion of the Foundation there is no question as to the necessity of keeping this type of work going. It is of vital importance that there should be no interregnum in the search for knowledge. Once the continuity is broken, with resources dissipated and scholars dispersed, the pattern will not easily be re-established. Pure research, the pursuit of truth for its own sake, could become a luxury, as it is in Europe today--forgotten in the chaos of war and perhaps subsequently lost in an age in which utilitarian values constituted the only standard of measurement." If there is a better statement, it is hiding from this Collyum.

Are we doing our utmost to help "maintain a continuity of tradition between the past and the future"? Do we appreciate our opportunities and obligations here at home, when so many Old Timers who have helped "maintain a continuity of tradition" and of scientific progress "between the past and the future" yearn for the day when they may again do those things that we at home are privileged to do without serious interruption and without appreciable physical or spiritual discomfort? Have we a perspective with respect to the ratio between privileges and performances? We should have: In the circumstances it would be morally indecent to do less than our best.

But how about our perspective with respect to the biggest and broadest problems of life and living? Agricultural scientists, including plant pathologists, are or should be motivated by a desire to contribute to human welfare, even though each individual may contribute only a little. Science has been internationally minded. We even had a proud little "League of Nations" in the Old

Tottering Tower. And we even thought the Little League might contribute its mite to international understanding and good will. But now we are engulfed in violence, and scientific brother is arrayed against scientific brother. What has become of our perspective? If we cannot retain it, can we regain it?

Quoting again from Mr. Fosdick: "War is violence, and a nation at war has to think in terms of violence. On all sides, we hear the counseling of those who urge the necessity of hate as a psychological prerequisite to victory. But the insistent voice of reason tells us that violence and hate cannot serve as foundation stones with which to build a new world. Hate is like a chronic disease which does not lend itself to a quick and easy cure; and violence, if too prolonged as an accepted technique, can become a deeply set mental habit. The destructive war of the spirit must be stopped. There must be an armistice for hate. The world must slough off its mood of violence if it expects to have a rational, healthy future

"What is this mental attitude of violence? Spiritually it means emphasis upon antagonism rather than upon cooperation, and upon fear rather than faith. Intellectually it means that emotionalism takes the place of objectivity, and that propaganda is substituted for truth. The size and scale of modern life have outrun man's experience, his patience and his capacity to understand. The complexity of the social and industrial order affords favorable opportunities for the concealment of injustice. Conscious of wrong, bewildered by facts as well as propaganda, men slip into some segment of the total circle--some loyalty, however fragmentary, which seems to them intelligible. With distorted perspective their own special advantages and their small fraction of society become not parts of the whole, but the whole itself. They confuse love of freedom with their particular interest in freedom. To them whatever is justice for their faction is justice for all.

"It is surely not too soon to discuss the problems of peace, which will prove even more difficult than the problems of war. Nor is it too soon to plan for the return from the mental attitude of violence and begin the formidable task which this about-face will involve. This is the task of the teachers, the philosophers, the clergy, the journalists, the statesmen, the poets, the novelists, the social scientists, and all who search for universal values and totality of vision. Upon these men and women must rest the burden after the war for our mental disarmament, and for seeing that the welfare of mankind is not forgotten in the conflict of lesser loyalties."

Perspective: How vitally important in science; and how terribly important in human affairs! How relatively easy for non-combatant scientists and how terribly hard for scientists become soldiers and sailors. Whether or not you wear medals on your chests when you come back, you servicemen who retain your perspective through all the vicissitudes of deprivation and violence, physical and spiritual, are the real heroes of this war.

OLD TIMERS COLYUM

Latin America

Sometime we hope to have a Latin American issue of AURORA. If any one now in L.A. has a lucid idea about it, please send it along. Right now we are strong in the body and weak in the head. The following card was received from the pioneer Old Timer in L.A., G. GARCIA-RADA. It says, "Deseo a Ud las Pascuas mas felices y el mejor y mas venturoso Ano Nuevo." Will Martin please translate.

Speaking of Spanish, J. Weston Scrapper MARTIN, now at El Palmar, Mexico, states that his principal difficulty is in using the Spanish language to communicate his ideas. If this Colyum had some ideas, it wouldn't worry about the vehicle with which to convey them to their destination.

Following the idea further, report has it that Dutch HARRAR

speaks the Mexican brand of Spanish like a native. This is a real accomplishment, as the Colyum was informed by some Spanish refugees in Mexico that Mexican Spanish is even better Spanish than Spanish Spanish.

This raises the question as to the relative merits of Argentine Spanish and Peruvian Spanish. The two eminent gentlemen who might settle this question are GARCIA-RADA and Cherry-Bounce VALLEGA. The Colyum is open!

The Colyum missed Dr. Ralph (Christy Mathewson) LINDGREN in Victoria, Mexico, by the length of time it takes a burro to get off the road. Nevertheless, Lindgren's landlady said that he had become quite Latin. The Colyum is open.

Maybe the Old Timers in Mexico could start the Latin-American number by publishing one on Mexico. The Colyum is open. But it warns that there is a censorship on international communications.

Rolland LORENZ and Mrs. Rolland sent news on May 28 from Tingo Maria, Peru, which they describe as "a beautiful spot surrounded by mountains and jungles, and ... climate ... very comfortable." Although having been hospitalized in Lima for some time, the 2 LORENZes are now feeling fine and invite everybody to come see them. Rolland travels by plane to the nurseries at Yurimaguas and Iquitos, and was going out at 6 the night he wrote, to shoot wild turkeys.

Haiti is not exactly a Latin-American country, but it is an American country. Reports on Dr. K. G. McIndoe are that he works too hard. What a criticism! This came from an official of SHADA, the Haitian agricultural corporation that is producing rubber from *Cryptostegia*, oil from nuts, and maybe some other things. At least Dr. McIndoe probably could give us further details. The Colyum is open.

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From Hyderabad, which seems a long way away at present, comes word from Dr. SYED Vaheeduddin (or vice versa) which indicates that he is still pursuing science. We hope he has received a copy of his thesis publication by this time. It is a good bulletin (non-paid advertisement).

Jack WESTERN sends regards from Manchester. Had spent a night with the BISBYS and reminisced over many things, including a trip in a temperamental Ford with Dr. Craigie and Dr. Greaney. He says, "I suppose the annual jockeying for the best positions in the Exp. Field has now ended and you are all beginning to speak civilly to Chris and Eagle once again."

A new problem, of fungi and yeast injury to valuable old books in underground storage, has come to Alan R. GEMMELL as a by-product of war. He has had occasion to dust off his plant phys. and plant path. volumes also, in order to take over the Seminar Lecturer's duties at Glasgow University. Sends regards to "all the Gang whereso'er they be."

Has anybody heard from CHURCHWARD?

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CHEREWICK, recent Ph.D., bestowed upon us recently his thesis manuscript for publication

W. E. SACKSTON had a bout with pneumonia this spring, then had about three weeks of work, and later about two weeks of vacation in the wilds of Lake Winnipeg.

Dr. C. S. "Chuck" HOLTON asks, re "...mutability...in *Ustilago zeae*" in Am. J. Bot. 30, "This looks, or sounds, complex. Is it? May I have a reprint? I'll read it even if I can't understand it." Is this a superior

