

lieve that the low physical development and efficiency of the native races of India as compared with the Eurasian or the European in the same country and under the same conditions, are due to unsuitable food materials, insufficient diet during the period of growth, or to any other factor than the low-protein intakes of the adult population, the possibility that the latter is a contributory factor at least can not be denied, nor can it even be supposed to be very improbable.

H. H. MITCHELL

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,  
URBANA, ILL.

#### THE SPIRIT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

THE recent communication to *SCIENCE* for May 9 by Dr. Raymond Pearl, and the discussion thereon in *SCIENCE* of June 13, by Dr. Davenport, causes one to surmise there are at least two opinions in the United States relative to research in experiment stations.

Dr. Pearl apparently deplored the seeming fact that experiment station workers must "supplicate the great Goddess Truth with one ear closely applied to the ground in order that he must catch the first and faintest murmur of 'What the public wants.'" He did not say "the public be damned" and perhaps he did not mean to. He did, however, give at least one reader the impression that he has small faith in farmers as patrons of experiment-station work. He apparently did not counsel experiment station workers to make an effort to adapt their results to the understanding and needs of "uncritical farmers." He would seem to think that this genus farmer, true to type as he is, had better be taught to look "through a glass darkly."

If agricultural experiment stations were established for any particular purpose toward our civilization, it was and is to serve the needs of farming people. It is a part of their job to adapt themselves and their work to the needs of such people. If they will do that very genuinely and sincerely, they will find these same people appreciative. If in any such instance they do not respond so quickly as they should, the greater is the obligation upon the

experiment station and its associated college to help them. Who does the work, anyway, which supports these various experiment stations, from the favored state of Maine to the other ocean?

These paragraphs are not written solely to disagree with so evidently an illustrious worshiper of the "great goddess Truth" with his "ear to the ground." Such would hardly be worth while. But it has virtually been charged in public print, by a reputable member of an experiment station staff, that much work and many workers of experiment stations are insincere. Such a charge, insidious as it is, does most insidious damage—undemocratic as it is in spirit, it would lead logically to the discrediting of our experiment stations as unworthy of support in a democracy.

If there is anything the matter with the land-grant colleges and experiment stations, it is that they have occasionally loaded upon them such pseudo-scientific junk as Dr. Pearl might apparently like to have our "uncritical farmers" unwittingly support. It is a mighty serious matter that if any of our land-grant institutions fail of popular support it will be because they fall victims to pseudo-science.

By pseudo-science I mean that so-called pure scientist who does his work or holds his job (and draws his salary) under the name of agriculture, with contempt in his heart for real farm people. Just such codfish aristocracy has failed visibly to accomplish much for the peasant farmers of Germany. However erudite it may be, it will fail of accomplishing much for American farmer citizens, as such.

Right now the land-grant colleges and experiment stations are on trial to show what real service they are capable of rendering to our farm citizenship. It is within their power to make a most conspicuous success.

If our American agricultural institutions should continue to organize themselves around pseudo-scientific units—*e. g.*, agricultural chemistry, agricultural botany, agricultural economics, agricultural what-not, or any old

thing to give some old-school aristocrat a job of foisting some mighty poor science and poorer agriculture upon farmers, then they will deserve to go down with those they fail to minister unto.

If our American land-grant colleges and experiment stations shall faithfully and fearlessly disregard old, artificial precedents, and organize themselves around agricultural units, it will be they who preserve the intellectuality of our great body of farmer citizenship. Will they do it? is the question to-day in the mind of the "uncritical farmer." This same farmer has time and again since the battle of Lexington shown his willingness to bear the burden of any real and sincere educational need.

And now, if any pure scientist delights not in agriculture, and in the problems of the farm, he should draw his salary from some more congenial source. It is the function of pure science to increase the sum of human knowledge. Let her worshipers be about their high calling.

It is the function of the experiment stations, to apply themselves to the solution of the problems of agriculture. Such work this hour demands not only the finest skill and cleverness, but the most searching integrity. Such is real worship of the "great Goddess Truth."

The very insincere practise of trying to deceive their constituency, which Dr. Pearl seems to cite, as the only recourse for doing scientific work in experiment stations, is that which could result in the prostitution of all science, and which might result in the degeneration of American agriculture.

A. N. HUME

SOUTH DAKOTA EXPERIMENT STATION

#### THE TARIFF ON BOOKS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: As most of us probably think of the new tariff law as one that reduces duties, it may be well to call the attention of readers of SCIENCE to one or two items of increase that are of interest.

Books in foreign languages *are no longer* to be on the free list, and books over twenty

years old must *also have been bound over twenty years* to be entitled to free entry.

As most German books are bound after publication, and there is no telling when, this might be a serious impediment to easy ordering of books from second-hand catalogues.

As a revenue measure will it yield enough to pay for the delay and obstruction to the *free* circulation of knowledge involved? This is not a bit of the "New Freedom," I trust.

ALFRED C. LANE

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Catalogue of the Mammals of Western Europe (Europe exclusive of Russia) in the collection of the British Museum.* By GERRIT S. MILLER. London. Printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum. Sold by Longmans, Green & Co., 39 Paternoster Row, S. C.; B. Quaritsch, 11 Grafton Street, New Bond Street, W.; Dulau & Co., Ltd., 37 Soho Square, W., and at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. 1912. All rights reserved. 8vo. Pp. 15 + 1019; 213 text figures.

Mr. Miller's "Catalogue of the Mammals of Western Europe" supplies a long-needed authoritative manual of the mammal fauna of Europe. It includes, however, only the land mammals, it excluding the seals and cetaceans. The Gibraltar macaque and the Indian buffalo are omitted as being artificially introduced species. Geographically it is restricted to continental Europe outside the Russian frontier and the immediately adjoining islands, but includes also Spitzbergen, Iceland and the Azores.

The preface, by Dr. Sidney F. Harmer, keeper of zoology at the British Museum, states that a work of this nature "was many years ago suggested by the late Lord Lilford, who kindly contributed an annual sum towards the collecting necessary for its realization," but "the possibility of issuing the present catalogue has mainly grown from the work which its author, Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, of the United States National Museum at Washington, has for some years been doing independently on the subject." Through the