

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1915

THE COMMON AIMS OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITY¹

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UNDER the influence of the diversity of pursuits imposed upon us by the conditions of modern life, different groups of the community—men of business, men of science, philosophers or artists—have acquired detached and sometimes opposing interests. Each group, impressed by the importance of its own domain in the life of the nation, and focusing its vision on small differences and temporary rivalries, was in danger of losing the sense of mutual dependence. But in the shadow of a great catastrophe it has been brought home to us that the clash of interests is superficial, and the slender thread of union which remained has grown into a solid bond. What is the fiber from which the bond is twined? Patriotism may express its outward manifestation, but its staple is the mental relationship which remains continuous and dominant even in normal times, when each of us may peacefully go to earn his living and enjoy the course of his intellectual life.

Outwardly the community is divided into heterogeneous elements with mental attitudes cast in different moulds, and proceeding along separate roads by differing methods to different ideals. Yet as we eliminate the superficial, and regard only the deep-seated emotions which control our thoughts and actions, the differences vanish, and the unity of purpose and sentiment emerges more and more strongly. Mind and character, no doubt, group themselves into a number of types, but the cleavage runs

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ Address of the President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Manchester, 1915.