

seem, in this field the mahogany roll-top desk is not the greatest thing in the world.

Says Professor Fite in the *Nation*:

Wherever two or three are gathered together, and even where they are not gathered together, some one is on his way to organize them. In the madness for organization we have long since lost sight of the end in the means; we have forgotten that neither the fruition nor the advancement of human life can take place in the absence of individual freedom and creativeness, and we have come to believe that the sole meaning of life and of culture is—to be organized.

INDIVIDUAL

SCIENCE AS CONTRABAND

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Through the kind offices of Professor James Ward the British authorities have consented to release the books sent from Germany to the *Psychological Review*. The Psychological Review Company desires to express its thanks to Professor Ward.

For the benefit of other scientists who may be similarly involved it should be stated that the action taken was a pure act of courtesy to Professor Ward. The taint of contraband still infects scientific literature in the opinion of the procurator general; but he is willing to defer to expert judgment.

HOWARD C. WARREN

PSYCHOLOGICAL REVIEW Co.,
PRINCETON, N. J.,
February 20, 1917

TRIMMED MAGAZINES AND EFFICIENCY EXPERTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Your correspondent "H. P." waxes somewhat warm in your issue of January 12 on the above subject and evidently prefers his untrimmed. To me it seems "all nonsense" to say that "I have always found that I got more out of an unopened magazine than an opened one." The contents are of course the same in either case, the difference is in one's mental attitude. I find my weekly copy of SCIENCE so interesting that I almost invariably read it clear through, and I do not want to be delayed in getting at its contents by having to cut its pages. I find it very irritating to have to cut the pages of an interesting book when I had

much rather be reading it. Such work is to me a waste of time and energy. SCIENCE is read weekly by some 12,000 to 15,000 busy men and women whose time is valuable in the literal as well as in the figurative sense, hence the "general opinion that the copies should be trimmed." This suits the present writer, but it is to be regretted that "H. P." can no longer get his untrimmed.

E. W. GUDGER

STATE NORMAL COLLEGE,
GREENSBORO, N. C.,
February 1, 1917

QUOTATIONS

INTELLECT AND THE WAR

HAD not experience amply shown that no subject is so remote as to make it exempt from contact with the workings of the great war, one might expect such immunity in the case of a paper on "The Relations of Mathematics to the Natural Sciences." As it is, one is not in the least surprised to find that the bearing of the present state of the world on the future of mathematical research is the theme of the closing remarks in the presidential address with that title delivered at the recent meeting of the American Mathematical Society by Professor E. W. Brown, the distinguished mathematical astronomer of Yale. While the stupendous events of the past two years have caused the need for scientific research to be emphasized more strongly than ever before, he says, yet it is to be remembered that in this the practical end alone is contemplated, and the purely intellectual side is little regarded. "The future of research in pure science is in danger as never before," he warns.

For this fear there is only too much ground, though in our judgment it would be a deplorable error to accept as inevitable that which is only threatened. No man can say what reaction there may be after the war from that state of mind which the appalling demands of such a conflict as is now convulsing the world inevitably produce. Everything depends on the nature of the peace which is to follow. If it is to be such as will compel a