

SCIENCE

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THE DIVISION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL¹

A GENERAL of the regular army listening to a description of the National Research Council remarked, "You are the General Staff of the army of American men of science." The analogy is suggestive. Our war against the realm of the unknown calls for a determination of broad policies of strategy, as well as for skill in the tactics of attack. Ample resources must be planned for. The relative need for men trained in the various specialized duties of a complex organization must be ascertained. The most effective plans for employing both men and materials must be blocked out. Programs for meeting possible contingencies must be thoughtfully elaborated. New suggestions of method in organization must be pondered and tested. The Division of Anthropology and Psychology of the National Research Council should serve the army of research workers in ways similar to these.

But the analogy breaks down absolutely in one respect. The National Research Council must not, will not, be autocratic. With a representative membership democratically constituted by election from the scientific societies of America it is in no sense our province to dictate, but only to serve. A better analogy compares the National Research Council with the Coordination Branch of the General Staff.

The Division of Anthropology and Psychology of the National Research Council aims to be of service chiefly in three directions: first, assistance in the coordination of research activities already in progress or in contemplation, to encourage team work, minimize duplication of effort, and decrease the magnitude of

¹ Address delivered at Cambridge, December 30, 1919, before a joint session of the American Anthropological Association and the American Psychological Association.