

reason for entering this subject any more than others. There are, however, varied reasons why a young man may well consider it as a life pursuit.

1. Vigor of body is the natural reward of the active geographer. This needs no amplification.

2. The geographer is brought into intimate contact with many lines of human interest and endeavor. Soils, crops, commerce, landscapes, weather, all kinds of natural resources, both developed and potential, interest him. And, if he travels, as he must to progress far in his science, he gains an insight into the hearts of men and nations second to none. The geographer becomes in reality a "citizen of the world" with much power to promote international understanding and good-will.

3. The modern science is young—younger even than its sister science, geology. Two important results follow:

(a) The opportunities for employment are numerous. Those who enter the subject now are on the "ground floor" as it were, in a movement which promises to be of much educational and economic importance.

(b) The opportunities for original discoveries and contributions are great. With their accomplishment comes the reward which the consciousness of having added to human knowledge always brings. The full power of this needs to be experienced to be understood. There is also the additional satisfaction which comes from being a pioneer in the development of new aspects of an important subject.

These advantages are on the whole quite similar to those of geology. In this connection, it may be interesting to know that while numerous men enter geology from other subjects, few leave it—and of those who do, by far the larger number change into this closely allied science, geography. The application of the broad learning of many years to a study which opens unlimited possibilities for bringing to mankind material prosperity, mutual good-will and friendly understanding, is intensely fascinating to the maturing man who feels a call to serve humanity, yet desires to labor and investigate in his chosen fields of science. Any

young man who has seriously thought of scientific work as an attractive life profession must find in geography an appeal which merits his careful consideration.

H. P. LITTLE

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

VIENNA

WHILE in Vienna last summer I was like other visitors deeply impressed with the supreme importance to the world of the problem of relieving this sadly stricken capital. At that time the exchange rate for the Austrian crown was about 600 to the dollar and it has since fallen to a rate of 10,000 to the dollar. The average salary of the professional man even six months ago was only the equivalent of between \$100 and \$200 a year, and the recent financial panic has brought the intellectual worker to straits which are almost beyond belief.

There are, it seems to me, three reasons why the situation in Vienna makes a unique appeal to the professional men and women of America. In the first place the actual suffering is far greater in Austria than in any other country outside of Russia. In the second place, there is at stake here not only the life and health of individuals but the life of a civilization, one of the most liberal and enlightened in the world. The universities and schools of Vienna have for centuries been the eastern outposts of the intellectual life of western Europe and in music, in medicine, and in many other arts and sciences her contribution has been unrivalled. In the third place, a peculiar responsibility rests upon America in this connection because the recent panic would have been entirely prevented if the congress of the United States had not delayed for six months the passage of the foreign debt funding bill which was essential to the carrying out of the Ter Meulen plan for the financial rehabilitation of Austria.

We can take great pride in what has been done by the American Relief Administration, the American Red Cross and the Friends Relief Mission to mitigate the suffering of the people of Vienna. With the passage of time, however, it is natural that the enthusiasm of

service should somewhat relax. It is important to remember that the situation is if anything to-day more critical than ever, and that the year 1922 will probably determine whether Vienna shall survive or perish as a center of intellectual and artistic life. I am therefore venturing to ask if you will not print the enclosed extracts from a letter just received from Miss Hilda Clark of the Friends Relief Mission, who has just returned to Vienna after a visit to the United States. I have personally no connection with the Friends Service Committee but I admired the work they were doing in Vienna beyond measure and I can assure the readers of *SCIENCE* that gifts of money or of clothing sent to the American Friends Service Committee, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, for the use of the professional men and women of Vienna will accomplish a service of unique value for humanity and civilization.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW

YALE UNIVERSITY,
FEBRUARY 3, 1922

EXTRACTS FROM MISS CLARK'S LETTER

I am interested to find, on getting back here, that the worst effects of the financial collapse of last autumn have not yet begun to show, at any rate, among the majority of the working-class population. Unfortunately, the reason for this is one which no one dares to think can be more than temporary. It is, that wages have boldly been put up, and in many trades, have almost risen to follow the increased cost of living so that people are actually better off than they were two years ago.

This applies particularly to food. The situation in regard to clothing is rather curious. Even in those trades where the rise in wages has been greatest, the fluctuation in prices is so uncertain that any article of clothing, for which it is necessary to save from week to week, is likely by the time the necessary money to buy it has been saved, to have doubled in price. You will see what a strong discouragement this is to people to save, and how impossible they feel it. Really, the home maker is in much the same difficulty as the manufacturer, and the working man or woman has not always the intelligence to cope with it. This tends to make people, especially, of course, the more thoughtless, even if earning the best wages, spend their money on

food each week, rather than save it for clothing. I do not think anybody would quite understand and sympathize with them who has not been, to some extent, in the same position.

Fortunately, the expenditure on food does, after all, help to restore the physique of the workmen, which had got so very much undermined before this rise in wages took place, but it creates a great deal of misapprehension on the part of social observers in the town whose first idea is that the working people are much better off than they really are.

This would not matter, were it not that there appears to be no hope at all that the present wage level can be maintained without causing a great increase in unemployment. It is not thought that industry can stand the present cost of production, as Austria has only obtained her markets, during the past year, by being able to undercut other manufacturers. It seems inevitable that she will go through the same phase of unemployment as has occurred in other countries. To meet this, she has at present absolutely no resources except a very uncertain amount of savings made by the most successful of the war-profiters.

Perhaps one should add to her assets the extraordinary courage and grit a great proportion of the people are showing, and the energy with which they are turning to the increase of their home food production. Unfortunately, a good deal of capital is required to carry this out to a sufficient extent to enable her to tide over an industrial crisis, but the amount of capital needed is very much lessened by the energy and hard work which the men themselves are giving.

First of all, they have increased the allotment garden production, and having nearly all the land that can possibly be reached by the people living in the present houses in Vienna, they are moving out to live in the country close to, and building houses with their own hands to live in while they cultivate the land. In this way, their labor is not withdrawn from the industries which are still working, and if there is temporary unemployment, they will be ready to return when conditions improve.

I think it is important that people should realize that to provide capital for this increase of the home food production is the only way of averting absolute starvation if unemployment on a large scale should occur, even if this were only temporary. There is no reason to suppose that industry here could not recover directly condi-

tions in Europe generally improve, or that Vienna would not be able to take her place on equal terms with other countries without the advantage of a cost of production subsidized by foreign relief.

With regard to the actual physical condition of the people at the moment, especially of the children, in which the people who have so generously helped in America are naturally most interested, thanks to this increase in wages, which has kept the majority of the working class from coming on our hands for relief, we have been able, with our limited programme, to do what was necessary to save the lives of the children, so far, this winter.

In the middle-class, where rises in salary, and fixed incomes have not come anywhere near the increase in the cost of living, the suffering is very terrible, and increasing as the colder weather sets in; we are now in the grip of a snowstorm which makes life almost impossible for people who have not been able to buy either clothing or fuel, and whose food has been reduced to about a quarter of that needed to maintain their vitality. The professional classes here have few children, and have had hardly any since the war, so that the relief for young children, which is our main piece of work, does not very much help them.

We have, therefore, turned our attention very specially to them this winter, and are particularly increasing, as far as our funds will allow, the help for the young children between the ages of 14 and 18 who, even if given one meal a day by the American Relief Administration, and only a very few of them get this now that the numbers have been reduced, are really not able to keep body and soul together while they are training themselves to earn their living.

The students in the university are still getting some help from the World's Student Christian Federation, but this, unfortunately, is coming to an end, and it is terrible to think what will happen, if they are unable to continue it, as the position of the students is certainly worse than it has ever been.

We are specially turning our attention to the lower grade or trade colleges of a lower standing than the university, and which are not included in this student relief,—where a great many of the poorest of the professional classes are trying to get their boys and girls trained for work which will enable them to earn their living more quickly than they could if they had to take the whole university course. We are now helping nearly

500 in this way, providing a fortnightly ration of extra food, enough to give about a third of the minimum calory requirements for an adult, and are also dealing with the whole family, who are often found, after individual investigation, to be in the most pitiable plight. All these families have had a ration of clothing averaging from six to ten garments per person, towards which they pay a trifling sum, which covers overhead expenses, and other help has been given where it was felt that the family could be placed in an independent position.

The students selected for help have been generally those in their final year, as it is found that this is the time when they tend to break down from the strain of combining study and a job, in the attempt to earn their keep. We are hoping to double the number, but if only we could obtain the funds we ought to increase it to 2,000 or 3,000.

At present, the need for clothing is, perhaps, the most pressing general requirement. We do not, of course, need to raise funds for those in receipt of the best wages, even though they are in the difficulty I described in the beginning of my letter, but it must be remembered that the great majority are still only in receipt of wages that will barely provide the minimum food for a family, and have absolutely nothing to spend on clothing, and in the professional classes, this is universally the case. They are faced with losing their jobs because they have not got the clothes in which to stand, and the bitter weather now upon us is, of course, making the need tenfold more urgent.

People may feel that it is now too late to send clothing for this winter, but if you are able to make it known how great the need is, I hope you will not let people be discouraged by the idea that it may be too late, because people require clothes to wear in the summer, and particularly in the case of underclothing, we did not find last year, that the demand was greatly lessened at the end of the winter.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MEXICAN ARCHEOLOGY¹

At a meeting of the Royal Anthropological Institute on November 22, Mrs. Zelia Nuttall gave an account of recent archeological investigations in Mexico. As an introduction to her report, Mrs. Nuttall referred briefly to the fact

¹From *Nature*.