

*Analysis of Mind* is grounded. Yet I can not forbear to call the interested reader's attention to the mortal wound which Russell himself inflicts upon his argument by his treatment, in Lecture XII, of belief. He has rested the whole realistic theory of consciousness as "neutral stuff" on the denial of the "personal" or "function" conception of consciousness.<sup>2</sup> Yet here he insists that "believing," a present occurrence "in the believer" is "an actual experienced feeling,"<sup>3</sup> a personal "attitude."<sup>4</sup> Professor Keyser, to be sure, might regard this as one of those "notably frequent public recantations of experience" which testify to Russell's "ceaseless re-examination of seeming certitudes and . . . to an unsurpassed intellectual candor." But I can not force myself to such a pitch of liberality. I am willing to grant Russell the privilege of changing opinion with every volume, of arguing in 1921 for the neutral monism which in 1914-1915 he so brilliantly refuted.<sup>5</sup> But liberality may be carried too far, and for my part I protest that nobody, be he Bertrand Russell himself, shall be at liberty in the course of a given argument to recant, publicly or privately, one of the premises of the argument itself.

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#### METHODS OF GERMAN PUBLISHERS

IN Germany the chief publishers of mathematical books and periodicals are Springer, Teubner, and Vereinigung wissenschaftlicher Verleger (a combination of the firms: Göschen, Guttentag, Reimer, Trübner and Veit). They have decided that for their mathematical publications of 1922 America shall, in general, be required to pay at least as much as \$2.40 per 100 marks of the price for Germany.

Of *Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik*, volume 45, part 3 (conclusion) has not been published; but part 1 (1920, 12 + 368 pages) and part 2 (1921, 6 + 526 pages) are sold in Germany for 73 and 190 marks respectively. The corresponding prices for America are \$4.65 and \$9.00! Such extortion ought

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.*, pp. 17 ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Op. cit.*, pp. 233 ff.

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 243.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. *The Monist*, XXIV, XXV, *passim*.

appreciably to hasten the appearance of an American abstract journal, the establishment of which has been already approved by the National Research Council.

But again, *Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik* (Crelle), volume 151 (1920-21), is sold in Germany for 96 marks; the price to America is \$6.00!

The publisher of these two periodicals is Vereinigung wissenschaftlicher Verleger.

The above facts, obtained from the publishers themselves on May 26 and May 31, 1922, will probably suggest to mathematicians the immediate cancellation of all contemplated orders for the publications of Vereinigung wissenschaftlicher Verleger—at least.

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NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,

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#### RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

THE officers of the Russian Entomo-Phytopathological Congress sent a request some months ago to American scientific societies and investigators to send to Russia literature on entomological and phytopathological matters.

In connection with this request the Russians promised to send Russian scientific literature in exchange. Certain difficulties, however, have been found to exist, principal among which is a regulation by the Soviet government made about two months ago which prohibits the sending out of literature from Russia without a special permit. This permit seems very difficult to get. The Russian scientific men, therefore, who have received American scientific literature in response to their request, feel much embarrassed by their inability to respond by sending Russian literature here, and I have promised to make known, in this way, the facts which have prevented their promised sending of Russian literature to those Americans who have kindly sent scientific papers to them.

VERNON KELLOGG

#### QUOTATIONS

##### PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS AT HIGH ALTITUDES

IN the Friday evening discourse delivered at the Royal Institution last week Mr. Joseph

Barcroft, F.R.S., reader in physiology at the University of Cambridge, provided some details of the recent expedition to Peru, to study physiological effects at high altitudes, supplementing the account he gave to the Chelsea Clinical Society as reported in our columns on April 22 (p. 648). The observations were carried out in the mining town of Cerro de Pasco, which is situated in the Andes, at a height of about 14,000 feet. Mr. Barcroft noted in passing the curious fact that at 12,000 feet there were cows which gave milk, and at 13,000 feet cows which gave little or no milk; this was not a question of fodder, because fodder was brought to the animals, and still they gave no milk. At 15,000 feet there were neither cows nor milk. Another point of interest was that fleas disappeared at 11,000 feet, though the louse accompanied man to a higher region. The Andes were chosen for this expedition for two reasons. The less important was that, unlike the heights on Teneriffe, to which the lecturer had previously gone as a member of an expedition, water was obtainable, by means of a water tower on the railway, right up to the level at which the work was done, and water, of course, was the first essential of the laboratory. The second reason was that in this case, instead of a mountain solitude, there was a community which had been acclimatized for generations to life at these levels. The people in this region were interesting ethnologically: they might loosely be called Indians, and their civilization, such as it was, probably dated back to before the days of the Incas. Many of them lived in chimneyless and windowless houses; they had a purely communal system of government, and some of their customs would hardly appeal to more civilized races. When a native was very ill, for instance, the date of his funeral was fixed without reference to his convenience, and an official saw to it that he was ready to keep the appointment! It was remarkable what loads the people were able to carry at these altitudes. A boy of about 13 would carry from the interior of a mine a burden of 40 pounds, ascending a staircase with it from a point 250 feet below, while a full-grown man would carry a hundred pounds of metal! yet the European was out of breath if he carried his

coat up a slight incline. Even the native, however, only accomplishes the work with great panting and with many intervals for rest. X-ray photographs of the chests of some of the natives showed that the ribs started almost horizontally and went round the chest like the hoops of a barrel. According to tables of chest measurements in relation to the length of the spine, the natives in this region should have a chest measurement of less than 80 cm, whereas their usual chest measurement was 90 cm. The native who was 5 feet 2 inches in height had a chest which should belong to a man of 5 feet 11 inches. Mr. Barcroft dealt also with blood changes. The immediate effect of the ascent was greatly to increase the number of red blood corpuscles, and although this excess was somewhat reduced later, the blood of members of the expedition showed throughout a larger proportion of young blood cells than normal. Comparative X-ray photographs showed also that the heart tended distinctly to become smaller. Mr. Barcroft closed by appealing for the establishment of some institute and laboratory which should continue permanently the study of the physiological effects at high altitudes.—*British Medical Journal*.

### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

#### BOOKS ON NATURAL AND UNNATURAL HISTORY

*How and Why Stories*: JOHN C. BRANNER.  
Henry Holt & Co., New York.

*Interesting Neighbors*: OLIVER P. JENKINS.  
P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia.

*The Earth and Its Life*: A. WADDINGHAM SEERS. World Book Company, Yonkers-on-Hudson, New York.

I find on my desk three little books of natural and unnatural history, as different as possible, one from another, but each wholly admirable of its kind. Branner's *How and Why Stories* represent the efforts of wise old negroes on his father's plantation in East Tennessee to account for the ways of common animals as seen against a Biblical background. The various tales are as racy and quite as remarkable as the Georgia adventures of Brer Rabbit as related by Joel Chandler Harris. In them,