Recently, having occasion to write an article in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of Huxley's birth, I tried to imagine what his counsel would be, were he among us. I fancied that it might be somewhat as follows:

> You can not have successful democracy without moral sense, and that must show itself equally in tenderness of heart and honesty of purpose. It is not enough to mean well; you must do well, cooperating with the universe in which you live. The honest man faces the facts of existence and governs his conduct accordingly; he throws aside all sham and pretense, as soon as it is ascertained to be such. These are not mere pleasing generalities, but stern precepts in a land where ignorance is often enthroned, and masses of people pretend to believe that which in their hearts they know to be false. Power without wisdom, action without knowledge, must lead to catastrophe, no matter how excellent the political system, how worthy the traditions of the past.[2]

There was a splendid integrity about some of the prophets of old, who offered eternal wisdom in the setting of the knowledge of their day. Yet the parable of the new wine in old bottles shows that our modern dilemma is of very respectable antiquity. It is not difficult to perceive what Jesus Christ would have to say about it, were he once more a man among men. Just as we have made over our lives to suit modern invention and discovery, so must we make over our philosophy to suit modern knowledge. But in essence both the lives and the philosophy remain the same, or at least retain eternal elements. Are we to perish like some butterfly which, having attained the winged state, should insist upon trying to eat cabbage leaves, instead of sucking the nectar of flowers? The matter is of enormous importance, and we must concede this virtue to the enemies of science, that they perceive it to be such. Unquestionably, the progress of the modern world, in its varied aspects, severely taxes the stability and even the sanity of the modern mind. Since we can not go back to barbarism, and all agree on that, it only remains to make readjustments which shall create harmony rather than discord, wholesomeness rather than a chaos of disconnected and irreconcilable fragments. What does this actually involve? It seems to me that it involves on the one hand the possession of what William James called over beliefs, transcendental conceptions of value and virtue which find their main justification outside the field of science; and, on the other, a frank and full acceptance of the testimony of the human senses, not as rigid orthodoxy, but as something dynamic, ever converting reality into truth. The modern man, possessed with these ideas, is bound to reject the mass of ancient miracles, some as apparently pure inventions, others as misinterpretations of facts actually observed. He may still often use metaphor, because our language is full of it, and perhaps the more freely because he knows what he is trying to express. He will not lose the sense of mystery or the feeling of awe, as he contemplates the world about him. Rather, these feelings will be deepened and broadened, as he perceives that truth is ten thousand times more wonderful than any fiction.

What can he say to those who fear that the loss of faith in the images of the past will imperil the essential verities? He can not, he must not, treat the matter lightly, as a thing of no account. The danger is real, and the problem has to be met. But Christ long ago pointed out the futility of trying to meet it in a half-hearted way. The new wine would burst the old bottles, and everything would be lost. This we can not endure, any of us, and those who would insist on confining the growing, living science and religion of the day within the boundaries of ancient tradition are themselves the wasters of that which they hold most precious.

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[2] *Nature*, May 9, 1925, p. 750.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS

ACCORDING to the New York Bureau of the Russian Telegraph Agency an expedition is being sent into the provinces of Saratov and Ulyanovsk (formerly Simbirsk) to study the vicissitudes of culture during the prehistoric period on the Volga river, the main waterway of the East European plain.

An expedition is leaving for Daghestan and the surrounding territories to study the languages, monuments, architecture, art and antiquities of Daghestan.

A four-months' excursion is being organized to Krasnokokshaisk, Penza, Kazan and Sarapul to study the language and culture of the Finnish races in those districts, particularly of the Mari, Votiaks and Mordvans.

A series of scientific expeditions is being organized to Central Asia. The first expedition will leave for the lake of Issik-Kul to investigate the possibilities of establishing large fisheries which may prove of great economic importance. Another expedition will be sent to the mountainous region of Turkmenistan to gather materials on the flora and fauna of that region. An expedition is being organized to Kazakistan (Kirghiz Republic) to gather valuable fossils of animals and plants contained in the slate deposits of the marine period. Other expeditions were sent to the Pamire and Tadjighistan.

The largest expedition has been sent to Northern Ferghana to study the rich natural resources of the region.

Another expedition is leaving for Yakutia for a period of five years. The expedition will study the life and customs of the Yakuts, the physical types of the population, the spread and causes of such diseases as trachoma, leprosy and psychiatrical phenomena observed in Yakutia, the cause of the degeneration of the Yakut women, and so on.

## THE A. C. S. NEWS SERVICE

IN response to a request from the editor of SCIENCE I am glad to give the following details regarding the News Service of the American Chemical Society.

The service was founded in 1917 with Dr. Allen Rogers, of Pratt Institute, contributing part time to its management. The work was later transferred to the office of the editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* and with the increase in the work a managing editor was later employed. No record of returns was kept in the early history of the service, but beginning with 1918 clippings were collected through the regular channels and their total tabulated with the full realization that clipping bureaus are probably not more than 30 per cent. efficient, by which we mean that they probably collect not more than 30 per cent. of the articles printed on a given piece of news.

The following figures as to cost and inches of publicity may be of interest:

| | Cost | Inches Publicity |
|---|---|---|
| 1917 | $ 500 | No record |
| 1918 | 1,850 | 5,000 |
| 1919 | 2,069 | 8,000 |
| 1920 | 8,078 | 21,000 |
| 1921 | 12,792 | 70,000 |
| 1922 | 10,306 | 79,101 |
| 1923 | 8,154 | 115,000 |
| 1924 | 6,580 | 205,000 |

Present indications are that 1925 will see a further satisfactory increase in our return. We are proud of the record, not merely because it indicates extensive space having been devoted to chemistry, but because of the high character of the mediums which have seen fit to use our releases.

While the editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* is the director of the News Service, the actual rewriting and placing of the stories is done by an experienced newspaper man who serves as managing editor. Special stories are frequently written, not only for given periodicals but in accordance with geographic interest in some new topic.

There is no monetary return to the society for this work, but the chemists believe that the expenditure is amply justified, for many instances of returns in a broad sense can be noted and it is felt that the creation of a large body of public opinion sympathetic to the work of chemistry is certain to redound to the advancement of the science in America.

The News Service was begun at a time when the press generally was inclined to print sensational stories, most of which were grossly inaccurate or mere figments of the imagination. There has been a decided decrease in this tendency and at present we are frequently solicited for information on topics before newspapers even write their own stories. Thanks to the News Service and to other educational efforts, it is not uncommon for special reporters to be assigned to the semi-annual meetings of the American Chemical Society. Other scientific organizations have from time to time engaged upon publicity campaigns and it is felt that the results of the American Chemical Society's efforts compare well with those obtained by similar organizations.

H. E. HOWE,
*Editor*

## PLANS FOR LUTHER BURBANK'S EXPERIMENTAL FARM

TENTATIVE plans have been made by Stanford University to take over and perpetuate the work of Luther Burbank, according to announcement made by William Gibbs McAdoo, member of the advisory board interested in the project.

The plans contemplate the transfer of Burbank's experimental farm at Sebastopol to the control of Stanford University, which will set about raising an endowment fund sufficient to insure the carrying on of Burbank's work when the horticulturist ceases his labor of creating new plants and flowers and improving on present species.

Burbank, for the past two years, has gradually been getting his affairs in shape so that his experimental farm might be taken over by some qualified institution. The proposal met with a ready response from Stanford University, owing to the warm personal friendship existing between Dr. David Starr Jordan and Luther Burbank. The announcement indicated that the university authorities had definitely taken up the project and would seek to raise the necessary endowment funds.

In his statement, Mr. McAdoo said:

For a period of fifty years Luther Burbank has been doing marvelous things in the field of horticulture—things that have conferred immeasurable benefits upon the human race.

Mr. Burbank has done most of his epochal work on a thirteen-acre development farm at Sebastopol, Sonoma