

it is inevitable that there should be a corresponding increase in the number of deaths from other causes. We have reason to expect a continued reduction in mortality from tuberculosis, typhoid and other prevalent diseases in the future, which should appreciably prolong the average span of human life. As many of

these lives will be terminated later by cancer and diseases of the heart, it will be absurd to draw alarming inferences from subsequent statistical reports showing increased deaths from these causes.

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QUOTATIONS

SIR NORMAN LOCKYER AND THE EDITORSHIP OF "NATURE"¹

THIS book is essentially for those who know and use *Nature* and knowing it wish to understand the man who brought it into being—as a child of quite unusual vigor and distinction—giving to it, almost from its birth, the individuality and strength of character which have long made it everywhere the recognized organ of scientific opinion: the *Times* of science. The achievement was his great contribution to scientific advance, of far greater value, I venture to say, because of the effect it has had in promoting the appreciation of scientific endeavor, than his work as an inquirer—which was largely that of a seer, in advance of his time, needing interpretations that only later additions to knowledge were to make possible. Still, the spirit of discovery was at the root of his being: from it he derived his force and it gave to him his success. Wise men like Huxley, seeing this in him, became his willing slaves.

The establishment of *Nature*, now fifty-nine years old, was a literary, not a scientific, feat, yet one needing for its success a rare combination of qualities—not merely literary but also editorial ability, breadth and intensity of scientific outlook and social qualities of an unusual force and range. The journal was not a financial success until after thirty years. To have kept the enterprise alive, during so long a period, was an astounding exercise of determination, diplomacy and skill. Lockyer was never an easy man to get on with. At times impetuous, often intolerant, always impatient beyond measure and most assertive, from an early date he held scientific workers generally at his behest. His whole-hearted unselfish devotion to his enterprise, his high aims, the importance to us of its success, the difficulty of the work—were so clearly recognized that we all rallied to his standard. There was a feeling that the journal had to be. *Nature* is a

¹ From a review in *Nature* by Professor Henry E. Armstrong of the "Life and Work of Sir Norman Lockyer," by T. Mary Lockyer and Winifred L. Lockyer, with the assistance of Professor H. Dingle, and contributions by Dr. Charles E. St. John, Professor Megh Nad Saha, Sir Napier Shaw, Professor H. N. Russell, the Reverend J. Griffith, Sir Richard Gregory and Professor A. Fowler. Macmillan and Company.

power to-day because of the sure foundations he laid: upon this his successor—long his assistant and most severely trained in his service—during the past nine years, has been able to build broadly and judiciously, to meet the needs of all schools of scientific activity and opinion, without fear or favor. *Nature* has been lucky in her assistants—Keltie and Gregory. Is the succession secure? I tremble, in asking the question, by the way.

In this connection, I may direct attention to the following passage in "The Earlier Life and Letters of Walter H. Page":

Consider the making of a periodical: what is the difference between a fairly good one and a really great one? It is only the difference of personalities and ideas that go into them. This is so simple that it sounds silly to state it. But there is no secret about making a great magazine. You must have, of course, a good craftsman at the head of it, a man of editorial skill, of good judgment, of some courage and of character, but these are all common qualities and with all these you will make but a fairly good magazine. The stuff to make a great periodical of is yet lacking and this stuff is a prodigality of ideas—such as no one man has or can have. Ideas must grow about it with the very luxuriance of nature, must come to it from every quarter. It must have enough waste material to make all the other periodicals better than they are now. This requires more than the acquaintance and good-will and casual suggestions of fertile men; *it requires, to a degree, the identification of their personalities with it* (my italics).

It is because Lockyer was preeminently successful in securing "the identification of the personalities" of scientific workers and of advanced scientific opinion of the day with his journal that he made *Nature* what it is and that his successor is successful. Page necessarily feigned modesty in appraising the qualities needed in an editor and set these far too low. Editors must be peculiar people to succeed: far more than good craftsmen. *Nature* has been a success, because Lockyer wove for it a magic carpet upon which scientific workers in all subjects could be attracted to sit: to preserve this in effective condition can never be an easy task.

The story of Lockyer's life and work is told in the book in a general biography covering 226 pages, written by Professor H. Dingle, upon material com-

piled by Miss Lockyer and Lady Lockyer with remarkable completeness. Then follow chapters by various writers appreciative of the several sections of his scientific and special work. From the general biography, we learn everything material in his career—in fact, it is possible to trace almost his daily occupation. Although most explicit, in a measure, the account is rather lacking in feeling—it is the work of a writer who has not known his subject sufficiently closely and at the early critical period of his activity to paint a really intimate picture. It is, in fact, as are so many portraits—technically good yet not quite the man himself. At times, the story is a little exaggerated, if not misleading, at least to one who, like myself, lived through the period under notice and was a close follower of all that happened, even sometimes behind the scenes. Probably Lockyer is best summed up in some of the doggerel current in early days: such as—

There was a young astronomer called Lockyer,
Who each year grew cockier and cockier,

Till he thought he was owner of the solar corona,
Did this young astronomer Lockyer;

or the following amusing item in a program of an entertainment on shipboard on one of the eclipse expeditions to India: "Mr. Lockyer will play upon his own trumpet: Wait until the clouds roll by!"

In early days, Lockyer was irrepressible, overflowing with energy and enthusiasm, at times displaying an overmastering tendency to fill the picture, often making the rashest assertions. The unco' guid dryasdusts were a little shocked by such conduct. Fortunately he had a large circle of friends able to discount his little foibles, who gave him their support. The element of a strong personal vanity was undoubtedly there, you saw it in him, yet behind all such display there was clearly nothing but generosity and the desire to make others share with him the intensity of his belief in the value of scientific purpose. He had no academic training; to his great advantage, I think, he was self-taught and unhampered by professional prejudice.

REPORTS

THE CENSUS OF 1930

PLANS are being made for the 1930 census of population to be taken next April. A conference was held recently at the Department of Commerce by Secretary Lamont, census officials and members of the advisory committee appointed to consider the range of inquiries to be included in the questionnaires.

Dr. Louis I. Dublin, statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York, was named chairman. The New Yorkers and others present at the conference were:

A. W. Page, vice-president American Telephone and Telegraph Company, for President Walter S. Gifford.

N. W. Barnes, International Advertising Association, 420 Lexington Avenue.

Dr. Robert E. Chaddock, Columbia University.

Edgar Sydenstricker, Milbank Memorial Fund, 49 Wall Street.

Dr. C. Luther Fry, Institute of Social and Religious Research, 230 Park Avenue.

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, educational director of Phelps Stokes Fund, 101 Park Avenue.

William Carpenter, National Electric Light Association, 420 Lexington Avenue, for Preston S. Arkwright, president.

Dr. Warren S. Thompson, director of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Fred Bremier, Curtis Publishing Company, for C. C. Parlin.

W. W. Husband, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Dr. E. Dana Durand, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

J. Chester Bowen, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

L. W. Wallace, American Federated Engineering Societies.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

William M. Stuart, Director of the Census.

Joseph A. Hill, assistant to the director.

Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, chief statistician for population.

A review of the work of the Advisory Committee for the census of population made public on July 31 by the Department of Commerce follows in full text:

The afternoon session of the committee was devoted mainly to a further discussion of some of the topics left over from the morning session and to the approval of resolutions covering a number of points.

Resolutions passed by the conference on the population census included the following:

1. With regard to the elimination of the item of mother tongue. This committee is in accord with the decision of the Census Bureau.

2. The committee approves the questions on unemployment.

3. The committee is opposed to the inclusion of the suggested question on number of rooms per family.

4. The committee is opposed to the question on income of wage or salary workers.

5. The committee is opposed to the question of religious affiliation.