# SCIENCE

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#### **THE SCIENCE PRESS**

#### SCIENCE AND LIFE<sup>1</sup>

#### By Professor GRAHAM LUSK

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THE explorers of the heavens tell us they have located a galaxy of stars, the light of which, transmitted at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, has been traveling through space for a period of 140 million years before becoming visible to the eye. We may perhaps be pardoned if we take account of the position of some other things which are a little nearer to us. For example, the position of metabolism research has lately been defined by a friend of mine who told me that it was now so far advanced in this country that it needed no further support. It seemed to me to be regrettable that such opinions could be held anywhere. I mentioned this statement to my friend, Karl Thomas, of Leipzig, a former pupil of Rubner, and he comforted me by saying, "Why, the whole of life is metabolism."

A celebrated clinician once elaborated and published a wonderful interlocking endocrinological scheme regarding diabetes. About one out of four of his guesses was right; the other three are now in the receptacle devoted to scientific rubbish. And we witness year after year false interpretations of physical phenomena, because a younger generation has arisen which does not know and apparently does not care to know what the old masters knew of the phenomena of metabolism. It is too much trouble to learn about it. The younger generation wishes to do a few metabolism experiments of its own and to draw conclusions without any knowledge of the background of accumulated evidence which may render the conclusions invalid.

Rubner, during the war, lamented the clamor of those Germans who demanded the production of a super-bread, for he knew of work done fifty years before, which even educated physicians had forgotten,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Delivered before the Piersol Anatomical Society, the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, February 28, 1930.



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