# SCIENCE

Vol. 83

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1936

No. 2149

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. MCKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

#### THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts. SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

#### APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGISTS<sup>1</sup>

#### By Dr. MELVILLE J. HERSKOVITS NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

THE anthropologist, in following the dietum that the proper study of mankind is man, must inevitably answer the questions that arise from the related fact that, in the last analysis, mankind's greatest curiosity is also man. And to-day, when this natural curiosity is reinforced by the pragmatic philosophy of our time, it has become increasingly difficult for students of humankind to maintain the detachment of the scientist who works with non-human materials.

Faced with the brilliant examples of the successful application of results of research in the fields of the physical, natural and medical sciences, there are those who emphasize the desirability and the urgency of pro-

ducing like results in the study of man. What, in the final analysis, they ask, validates the ends of science, and the support given the scientist by society, if it is not to point the way to immediate gains accruing from the work thus supported? How justify his withdrawal to the ivory tower, where, occupied with his researches. the worker seemingly ignores all those facets of his work that impinge on the practical problems of contemporary life? The issues raised by these questions are not lacking in importance. For in considering them, not only are we concerned with the problem of the aims of pure science and the obligation of the scientist to society, but also with the never-ending problems of the relationship between the scientist and the engineer, the thinker and the doer, the planner and the executive. And it is some of the implications of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Address of the vice-president and chairman of the Section of Anthropology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, St. Louis, January 3, 1936.

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