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LAND AND LAND USE¹

By P. E. BROWN

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THE United States is a very large country, but in this day and age of rapid transportation, of airplane travel from coast to coast with almost inconceivable speed, the enormous land area of the country is almost forgotten. Of course, we have been brought up in this "big" atmosphere and are so accustomed to it that it makes little impression upon us, except very infrequently. But foreigners are appalled at our size as a nation. For we are really enormous in comparison with most of the leading nations of the world, and people from those nations have often made us self-conscious and even awkward in our bigness. This size and our comparative youth as a nation have combined to affect our diplomatic relationships. But a

big fellow does not need to be diplomatic. He can do just about as he pleases, while the little fellow must be cautious, wary and very diplomatic, if he is to survive. So it is with nations. The smaller they are the more diplomatic they become.

Size affects characteristics in the case of individuals and also in the case of nations. Our development as a nation has been amazing and our size or land area has played a large part in that development. It is not the whole story, but it is vastly important. Our whole national character is a reflection of our bigness. Our confidence and our attitude toward our national neighbors and toward the world is due largely to our size.

And we have always done things in a "great big way." Our fetish, nationally, locally and individually, has been size, bigness, numbers, speed. If we have

¹ Address delivered at the Iowa State College, February 20, 1936, in a series of lectures arranged by the college on national, state, regional and town planning.

VITAMIN A

On January 30th, 1932, Mead Johnson & Company announced an award of \$15,000 "to be given to the investigator or group of investigators producing the most conclusive research on the vitamin A requirements of human beings." (J.A.M.A., January 30, 1932, pages 14-15.)

This award was extended on February 11th, 1933 (J.A.M.A., pages 12-13) to include an additional award of \$5,000 for a laboratory investigation "which may later serve for, or point the way toward an evaluation of the vitamin A requirements of human beings."

In accordance with the terms announced, the Judges decided (April 10, 1935) that the Clinical Award should be postponed until December 31st, 1936, and that the Laboratory Award should be divided between Dr. S. B. Wolbach, Harvard University, for his basic work on the pathology of avitaminosis A, the regeneration of epithelial tissue impaired by vitamin A deficiency, and the relationship of vitamin A to the integrity of the teeth; and Dr. Karl E. Mason, Vanderbilt University, for distinguishing exactly between the pathology of avitaminosis A and avitaminosis E, and for his contribution to the quantitative relationship of vitamin A deficiency to the keratinization of germinal epithelia.

The Judges for this award were announced February 11, 1933: Isaac A. Abt, Northwestern University; K. D. Blackfan, Harvard University; Alan Brown, University of Toronto; Horton R. Casparis, Vanderbilt University; H. F. Helmholz, Mayo Clinic; Alfred F. Hess, Columbia University; E. V. McCollum, Johns Hopkins University; L. B. Mendel, Yale University; L. T. Royster, University of Virginia; and Robert A. Strong, Tulane University.

PRESENT STATUS

Many papers on vitamin A have appeared since December 31st, 1934. Most of these have been in the field of laboratory experimentation, but, in addition, numerous publications involving clinical studies have appeared. From time to time, available abstracts of such work are sent, by the Secretary, to the Judges.

It is to be noted that the main award will be made on the basis of papers published, or accepted for publication, by December 31st, 1936.

It is the earnest hope of the sponsors of this award that the large amount of experimental work which has been done since January, 1932, will permit a true evaluation of the vitamin A requirements of human beings.



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