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GRADUATE WORK IN SCIENCE, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE¹

By Dean F. K. RICHTMYER

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It is generally agreed, even by casual observers, that the world seems to be passing rapidly from one era of its history into another. We of 1936 are, of course, too close to the stirring events of this decade to be able to evaluate their true significance. That task must be left to the historian of several generations hence. We are conscious, however, of the fact that momentous changes are taking place before our very eyes, in almost every phase of human society.

Those governments of the world in which revolutions have not yet occurred are undergoing an evolution so rapid that it may almost be called "revolution." It is

¹ Presented upon the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Graduate School of the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, May 22, 1936.

only a few short years ago that a great war was fought "to make the world safe for democracy." But now, to our regret, the question "Is democracy safe for the world?" is being raised by persons to some of whom at least, whatever we may think of their philosophy, we must credit sincere motives.

Sometimes in our more pessimistic moods we are inclined to wonder whether our whole economic structure is not breaking down. We see rapidly changing social relations among individuals and among groups of individuals, whether the grouping be on economic or geographical lines. Even religion, usually the most stable component of society, is experiencing transitions as fundamental as they are subtle.

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