SCIENCE

VOL. 85 FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1937 NO. 2212

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.

THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW BUILDING OF MELLON INSTITUTE[1]

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND COMMENTS

By Dr. E. R. WEIDLEIN

DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE

Honorable Andrew W. Mellon, Mr. Richard K. Mellon, distinguished guests, friends of Mellon Institute and friends of our radio audience: We extend to you our sincere appreciation for your presence. We are stimulated by an audience of leading scientists, educators and industrialists, who are here to pay tribute to our founders in dedicating this magnificent new building to science for the benefit of humanity. In this we all take pride; and as that occasion has now approached, let me say a word about the meaning of the institute and about the purpose of its founding.

Before they established the institute in 1913, Andrew W. Mellon and the late Richard B. Mellon, the father of Richard K. Mellon, saw the merit of scientific research for the benefit of mankind through the development of industry. Industries of that day, however, were not applying scientific research for the solution of their problems, nor were these industries fully aware as to what such research might mean to them. The institute was established for the purpose of giving this aid.

This venture of scientific research very soon proved its value. New materials and new processes came into being. Industries and the whole estate of man benefited. Yet the founders saw beyond these results. It seemed to them that there were needed researches in science that have a more direct relation to human welfare, which might also advance our basic knowledge of science. Such fundamental work was started; and

[1] Pittsburgh, Pa., May 6, 1937.

the entire program through these many years has been sustained with generosity by the founders.

The institute has become a guild of scientists. Here are gathered many men trained in chemistry, biology, physics and engineering. They help one another directly; and, even more important, they create an atmosphere of achievement for themselves in which there grow vision and determination for thorough, careful work. Their success is not accidental. It is the outcome of strong minds and of orderly thought, of good will and of good teamwork, of seeking toward a great end. Even the founders did not entirely foresee the results to be attained by such a guild, nor did they anticipate, in the days of the beginning, the full values to humanity which would flow from such researches.

As one who has had association with the founders through many years, their quiet, unpretentious guidance of the institute has deeply impressed me. Richard B. Mellon has gone. He had the satisfaction, however, of seeing the four walls of the new building completed. He was happy to watch the columns go into place; and he was happy, too, that he was regarded as a member of the guild. His courage, his patience and his imagination qualified him as a great and always to be honored member.

Of Andrew W. Mellon it is more difficult to speak, for he is here. His mind always proceeds through details to the final significance, and he seems never to be disheartened. These qualities of mind as a background to the endless discouragements and elusive headway of scientific research can be understood, it seems to me, best by one who has lived through large experience with such difficulties.

Their contribution is a noble gift to humanity.

We are delighted to have with us to-day the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon, whose sincere desire to make America the best place in this world in which to live and prosper has been the motive back of all his philanthropic contributions. I know that all of you join with Mellon Institute to-day in the pleasure of greeting our eminent founder, the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon.

ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE ANDREW W. MELLON

The building being dedicated to-day realizes the hopes of many years. My brother and I had long looked forward to this occasion and it would have made him very happy if he could have seen, during his lifetime, the completion of this beautiful building for the Mellon Institute. I wish, too, that Dr. Robert Kennedy Duncan could have lived to see this day and the institute's many activities, for he was, in the beginning, at least, the inspiration of it all.

The manner in which it came about was quite unpremeditated, as those things often are. Strange as it may seem, it all goes back to a school of languages and a quite innocent desire on my part to speak French fluently enough to travel abroad in comfort—a desire, I may add, which remains unsatisfied to this day. At any rate, I called on the school for help, and they sent a young Frenchman to my house in the evenings during the summer of 1909. He was a very enthusiastic young man, and one night he brought a letter from his father in France who had made a chemical discovery, as he thought, and wanted it tested by some industry in a position to utilize the discovery commercially.

I gave the letter to the chief chemist of the Gulf Oil Company, who reported a few days later that the supposed discovery was not of practical value, and, to prove it, gave me a book, just then published, called "The Chemistry of Commerce," by Robert Kennedy Duncan, professor of chemistry at the University of Kansas. I read the book with interest, but the part which particularly enlisted my attention was the last chapter, in which Dr. Duncan described his plans for industrial fellowship, by means of which industry could utilize the services of qualified scientists to solve its problems, in much the same way as is being done here to-day.

After pointing out the confusion and waste in manufacturing, most of which was chemical, not mechanical, he went on to say that with larger combinations of capital and a new generation of business men becoming aware of the possibilities of the new knowledge, improvements were coming and would continue to come in industry as the aid of science was invoked to solve the problems constantly arising.

I was very much interested in these ideas of Dr. Duncan's, for as a result of all my reading and observation it seemed to me that improvement in the standard of living of the human race could come about in the future only by reason of new discoveries and inventions, just as, in the past, the steam engine and other inventions had been responsible for many improvements in the standard of living enjoyed by the average man to-day. It was these things, and not governmental or political action, that had increased production, lowered costs, raised wages, elevated the standard of living and so had brought about a greater participation of the human race in these benefits.

It seemed to me that an institution based on Dr. Duncan's ideas could help in this advance movement; and as my brother was keenly interested in the project, we lost no time in persuading Dr. Duncan to come to Pittsburgh and organize for us here at our university this Institute of Industrial Research. It em-