direct a mechanism so complex as his own social organization.

A characteristic of periods of social stress and strain seems to be the tendency of peoples to seek escape into phantasy or *other-worldliness* from the over-difficult perplexities of real life. A leading economist said to me during the trough of the depression that we were headed in the United States for the "——est religious revival that this country has ever seen." His expectations were not realized, perhaps, because of the economic recovery that rapidly ensued thereafter. However, we see many evidences to-day of the same basic phenomenon to which he alluded. With a certain attitude of desperation the world is sacrificing its hopes of higher living standards on behalf of towering, nonproductive armaments; meanwhile seeking psychological compensation in phantasy. The unprecedented "success" of Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and the wide appeal of James Hilton's "Lost Horizon" illustrate the point.

I think it significant that the present-day pessimism in the nations which are striving to preserve simultaneously liberalism, capitalism and democracy, is not engendered by fear that natural science and technology, of themselves, may fail to provide foundations for further expansions of production. It arises from fear of universal warfare and the general breakdown of existing social institutions. Science itself, in the latter event, might perforce be compelled to retreat again into the cells to which it was once confined by medieval theology. Even now, in large and important nations, science has been commandeered by the priests of force and intolerance. Without understanding that science can prosper only when abundantly supplied with the air of freedom, they would drive it to serfdom and prostitution on behalf of bastard political and anthropological doctrines.

We whistle and believe that "it can't happen here." This keeps up our courage. I believe that we must do more. Natural science and social science must join their efforts in undertaking the realistic task of constructing social organization, national and international, that can function and produce for the well-being and improvement of mankind. Only then can we believe with confidence that improvements in world standards of living are a reality.

OBITUARY

HEINRICH WILLIAM POLL

DR. HEINRICH POLL, anatomist and biologist, died suddenly on June 12, 1939, in his sixty-second year. Long denied common decencies of human living in the home country which he loved even to the end, he had found refuge in Lund, Sweden. It was here that he died after but a few days of freedom, tragically burdened by concern over the welfare of Mrs. Poll (Dr. Clara Poll Cords), who remained in Germany.

Poll was born on August 5, 1877, in Berlin. In 1900 he received the degree of doctor of medicine from the University of Berlin, where during 1899 he served as assistant to Oscar Hertwig. Appointed privatdocent in the Berlin Institute of Anatomy and Biology in 1904, he was elevated to professorship in 1907 and to extraordinary professorship in 1922. In 1924 he removed to the University of Hamburg, to occupy the ordinary professorship and to serve as director of the Institute of Anatomy and Human Genetics. Displaced from this position in 1934, he remained thereafter without institutional connection.

In 1928–29 Poll presented the first series of Flexner Lectures at Vanderbilt University, and on the occasion of this visit in the United States lectures were given also at the University of Chicago, Columbia, Harvard, Washington University and Yale.

Poll's first publications appeared in 1896; as a youth in the late teens he was already driven by the urge which made of him a scholar in all that the true sense of the word implies. That urge never deserted him. Even through the dark years which followed 1934 Poll did not cease his studies, hampered though he was by material obstacles and stresses, which for another might have stultified productive work. His bibliography, numbering over one hundred titles, closes with two papers in press, and other investigations were left unfinished.

His studies for the most part lie in three fields: physical anthropology, the endocrines and genetics. It is significant to note that his two first publications are concerned respectively with physical anthropology and endocrinology. Both these interests endured through a working career of over four decades, and for a large part of this period genetical investigations claimed a share of his attention. To each of the three fields Poll contributed distinct advances, not only directly but through his students as well. His most important work in physical anthropology is perhaps that concerned with finger prints, a subject which commanded first place in his interests during the later years. He developed a novel and revealing methodology, with the use of which he investigated racial variation, geographic variation within single races, constitution and symmetry. In endocrinology, his early demonstration (1896) of survival of transplanted adrenal tissue, the discovery of adrenal-like elements in invertebrates and a series of studies on the interrelation of the sex glands and adrenal are noteworthy. His

genetical studies chiefly relate to hybridization of birds. Poll (1914) was among the first to appreciate the promise of the twin-method and to utilize it in genetical research.

Poll's stimulating discussions of scientific matters would alone hold him close in the memories of those who knew him. But his friends have gained much more from the man, the warmth and fullness of his understanding, be it in sharing a sunrise or in united attack on some entangled problem.

HAROLD CUMMINS

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RECENT DEATHS

DR. ALGERNON COOLIDGE, since 1911 professor emeritus of laryngology at the Harvard Medical School, died on August 16 at the age of seventy-nine years.

DR. CLEMENT ROSS JONES, since 1932 dean emeritus of the College of Engineering of the West Virginia University, died on August 16 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. ALBERT COULSON BUCKLEY, professor of psychiatry at the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and honorary consulting psychiatrist at Philadelphia General Hospital, died on August 17 at the age of sixty-six years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NEW BRITISH NON-FERROUS METAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

OLIVER STANLEY, president of the British Board of Trade, opened on June 29 the new laboratories of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association in London. According to an article in the London *Times,* in the entrance hall he unveiled a bronze portrait plaque, erected as a memorial to Thomas Bolton, who from 1920 to his death in 1937 was chairman of the association.

The new premises provide a center for the research necessary in the metallurgical industries. Non-ferrous metals have been extensively used to show their advantages in modern building. The heating installation, electrical conduit, certain water supplies, plumbing and principal rain pipes are in copper; other water supplies are in BNF ternary lead alloy No. 2; water fittings in nickel silver and bronze; the principal stair balustrade has a nickel silver handrail, with anodized aluminium tubular standards, and door furniture is of nickel silver, anodized aluminium and bronze.

At semi-basement level there is a melting shop, with furnaces of many kinds, and nearby is a galvanizing and welding shop. The mechanical testing laboratory includes a constant temperature room, maintained at 68 deg. F., with a control to within plus or minus half a degree, so that no two points in the room differ by more than one degree. The machine shop includes a guillotine capable of cutting sheet steel up to 18 gauge. The physics laboratory is equipped with highly sensitive instruments for spectrographic analysis, general physical testing, thermal conductivity, specific-gravity determinations and reflectivity measurement.

In one of the two rooms reserved for metallography, photographic work is carried out on a large projection microscope with which magnifications from three to 2,500 diameters can be obtained. There are also chemistry laboratories, a pyrometry and heat treatment laboratory, laboratories for investigating corrosion, a general laboratory, a development department which interprets and demonstrates the result of the association's researches, offices, a library containing 4,000 books and 20,000 pamphlets and a store room.

The building is steel framed, with brick panel walls. Easy access to the flat roof makes it convenient to expose specimens to atmospheric corrosion.

The British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association is a national organization of producers, manufacturers and users of non-ferrous metals, established in 1920 for the promotion and use of scientific knowledge in industry. It has grown to a large organization with nearly 300 subscribing members and a total income exceeding £30,000 a year, a proportion of which is received from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on a basis which provides for increased government grant as the industrial income increases. The association conducts researches on technical problems of common interest to groups of members and assists in the application to industrial practice of its own research results and of other advances in science.

EXPEDITION TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

AN expedition to the Pacific Islands, under the auspices of the National Geographic Society and the University of Virginia with the cooperation of the U. S. Coast Guard, will sail from San Francisco shortly after the middle of September on board the U. S. Coast Guard cutter *Hamilton,* a 328-foot vessel.

Professor Wilbur A. Nelson, of the University of Virginia, will be the leader of the expedition and in charge of its geological work. Dr. C. S. Piggot, geophysicist, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, will make studies from cores of mud taken from the ocean bottom. Professor Maurice Ewing, geophysicist of Lehigh University, will carry on gravity investigations at sea and will make special studies by means of