

and chlorine.¹ Quantitative significance was given the Grötthuss-Draper Law by Van't Hoff, in 1904, during study of substance transformations by light of different intensities.²

In fluorescence an analogous situation may be considered to exist. However, the most fundamental law of fluorescence, and therefore of fluorochemistry, has not yet been formally defined, *i.e.*, *energy must be absorbed by a luminescent system before emission can occur*. This patent statement most evidently concerns Stokes's Emission. In this connection, the exact status of Anti-Stokes's Emission and resonance radiation may provoke contention when close consideration is given this First Law of Fluorescence.

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CEMENTING SINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

A STATEMENT contained in the recent letter by Egbert H. Walker on the subject of "Cementing Sino-American Friendship" possibly should be expanded. Dr. Walker's letter was concerned with the possibility of the collection of reprint material to be used as gifts to destitute Chinese libraries. He stated, "There seems at present to be no organization receiving and storing such unneeded literature for future distribution." His statement is true in respect to reprint material alone, but there is an organization in existence working on the question of preservation of scholarly and scientific materials for foreign libraries.

The American Library Association as early as December, 1940, created a Committee on Aid to Libraries in War Areas, headed by John R. Russell, librarian of the University of Rochester (reported in *SCIENCE*, March 6, 1942). During the past year and a half the committee has been working toward that time when reconstruction of foreign libraries can become possible. A rather extensive purchase program has been in process since July, 1941, and a campaign for gift material has been inaugurated on at least a small scale. The committee has had considerable publicity aimed at the conservation of important American scholarly journals, and through the publicity has received gifts from many institutions and individuals interested in the rebuilding of research resources in foreign countries.

The cooperation of a small group of American libraries scattered throughout the country has been enlisted on the question of storage space, and as gifts of journals have been offered, the committee has been able to issue shipping instructions for the transfer of

this material to temporary storage, pending that time when foreign distribution can be accomplished.

With rather limited storage space, the committee has been doubtful as to the wisdom of attempting at the present time to collect book material and reprints. Considering the present state of the international situation, it is obvious that storage of this material may have to be for a matter of years, and although we can be sure what journal material will be of importance to foreign libraries, it is not as easy to predict the value of book and reprint material.

The committee would be very grateful for assurances that scholars in this country are keeping this future need in mind and are not destroying either journal, book or reprint material which they feel will be of value. In those instances where personal storage of this material is not possible, the committee would be very grateful for reports of what publications might be available and would undoubtedly be able to reach some satisfactory solution of the storage problem.

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Executive Assistant to the Committee

RUSH REEES LIBRARY,
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

RESEARCH AS USUAL

ALTHOUGH few of us realize what the phrase means, we have been rightly told that "this is total war." As yet we have been called upon for only a small fraction of the sacrifice that will surely be necessary before the struggle is over. The longer we postpone doing the inevitable, the higher the cost will be, just as we are now paying heavily for our lack of foresight and sagacity a few years ago.

In this country a vast amount of time is still being spent on things that are of no immediate importance. A goodly fraction of that wasted effort could be devoted to work that will promote the success of our war struggle. In so far as it could be, it should be. To do anything else is at best short-sighted and at worst definitely unpatriotic.

Although many scientists in this country have already turned their attention to research work tributary to the war, there are still thousands who are going along just as in peace times, digging up facts that have no relation to the present emergency, studying problems not even remotely concerned with it, and burdening the mails with papers and books that deserve but little attention until this war has been won and our civilization saved from utter ruin.

Scientific research is of prime value in this crisis. Many of its good results are already well known. It is even possible that a single scientific discovery may tip the scales in favor of victory. But if one's accustomed field of research happens to be unrelated

¹ J. Draper, *Phil. Mag.*, 23: 401, 1843.

² F. F. Heyroth, "The Chemical Action of Ultraviolet Rays," 2d edition, page 206. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation. 1941.