

CORRESPONDENCE IN REGARD TO THE CENSORSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

LETTER FROM J. McKEEN CATTELL, EDITOR OF SCIENCE, TO COLONEL W. PRESTON CORDERMAN, CHIEF POSTAL CENSOR, WRITTEN FROM LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA, JUNE 27, 1942

I SHALL be under obligations to you if you will give me some information concerning the censorship of scientific journals. I am and have been for forty-six years editor of SCIENCE, a weekly journal devoted to the advancement of science. It is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with over twenty-three thousand members, including nearly all those in the United States who are engaged in scientific research.

SCIENCE is made up each week on Tuesday, the copies are printed on Wednesday and Thursday, and are mailed on Thursday evening, the day of publication being Friday.

In accordance with instructions from your office, the pages of the issue for June 19 were sent to you on June 16, which was the earliest possible date. You returned the pages on June 19; they were received on June 20. It was necessary, of course, to print the journal before receiving the proofs from your office, and the copies were mailed as usual to subscribers in the United States and Canada on June 18. Copies for foreign countries were held pending your approval.

You have not censored any part of the editorial pages, but you have censored three notes printed in the supplement among the advertising pages. This is syndicated material, supplied to SCIENCE by Science Service, Washington, D. C., and had all been printed in other journals. Two of the erasures (one of three words) concern matters of health which the Advisory Committee on Scientific Publications of the National Research Council has decided should not be suppressed.

Now what are your instructions in regard to the copies for foreign subscribers? We can not possibly reprint the number with these unimportant omissions. SCIENCE, as you will note, goes to four hundred and sixty-one subscribers in sixty-one foreign countries. It is perhaps the most influential list of subscribers in foreign countries of any American magazine, going to libraries and leading scientific men. Shall we black out the pages that have been censored by your office before mailing the copies? This is possible, but by no means desirable. Shall we write to the subscribers in foreign countries stating that, owing to the censorship in this country, we are unable to mail SCIENCE to them for the duration of the war? Would it not be most unfortunate for us to make this admission? I receive regularly the daily *Times* from London and a number

of weekly and monthly journals, including *Nature* (the field of which corresponds with SCIENCE) the *British Medical Journal*, the *Lancet* and others. There is no indication that these journals have been censored in England.

There is enclosed a copy of a letter which I have just written to the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Scientific Publications of the National Research Council, which acts for the Government. You will note from the concluding paragraph that in the war of 1917 the Surgeon General and the Secretary of War ruled that there should be no suppression of a life-saving discovery on the ground that the enemy could also make use of it.

I trust you will give this matter your personal attention, for the advancement of science is essential to national welfare and to the prosecution of the war.

LETTER FROM J. McKEEN CATTELL TO PROFESSOR LUTHER P. EISENHART, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, JUNE 25, 1942

On May 8, I addressed to each of the referees in the medical sciences, of whose appointment you had informed me, a letter which read:

Professor Eisenhart, chairman of the advisory committee on scientific publications of the National Research Council, informs me, as editor of SCIENCE, that a committee to consider developments of consequence in the present war has been formed in the field of the medical sciences.

You are the referee in . . . and I beg you to tell me what kind of articles should be submitted to you before publication. Is it planned to prevent the publication in scientific journals of information that may promote health or limit disease among the people in the countries with which we are at war?

I have now received answers from each of the ten referees. They agree that information should not be suppressed that may promote health or limit disease among the people in the countries with which we are at war. I take it for granted that this would include methods for checking the spread of typhus or more speedy healing of wounds.

Two of the referees make statements, however, that seem to be inconsistent with this policy, or, indeed, with the general tenor of their own letters. One of them writes that articles "directed to the treatment of gas casualties should all be submitted to the appropriate referee." Another writes, "Suppose you reviewed a paper containing material on a new sulfonamide which seemed to be completely non-toxic and much more effective in the control of infections than any

hitherto known. Such a paper would be reviewed to see whether the material in it should be kept confidential until the end of the war."

This latter referee would doubtless have delayed publication of an article on penicillin which was submitted by the author to the Committee on Medical Research of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. They requested him not to send it to *SCIENCE*, but four months later, after *Nature* had published articles on the subject, wrote to the author that he might print it. It seems to me that *SCIENCE* is as competent as *Nature* to decide what should or should not be printed.

You have appointed distinguished referees in the medical sciences, and I shall appreciate any advice that they are willing to give. I understand, however, that this is only advice and that there is no intention of using "es ist verboten" methods. Otherwise, I should need to know on what authority they are acting. Unless superseded by higher authority, *SCIENCE* will follow the decision of the Surgeon General and the Secretary of War in the war of 1917. This is given in a letter from Welch printed in the biography recently published by the Flexners. C. G. Bull had developed an antitoxin for Welch's gas bacillus which was being very destructive on the Western front. In June, 1917, Welch wrote:

Gorgas is entirely opposed on general principles to withholding the publication of Bull's discoveries, but he wished me to lay the matter before the Secretary of War, so we both saw Secretary Baker. The Secretary took at once the humane view and said that we should not consider for a moment holding back such a life-saving discovery on the ground that the enemy could also make use of it. I was very glad that both the Secretary and the Surgeon General without any hesitation took this position.

LETTER FROM COLONEL W. PRESTON CORDERMAN TO
J. McKEEN CATTELL, JUNE 30, 1942

Thank you for submitting for our interested consideration problems troubling you concerning the censorship of scientific journals scheduled for export from the United States.

Your attention is directed to the fact that the proofs of your publication are examined by the Technical Data License Division of the Board of Economic Warfare. This Division, as a service to the Office of Censorship, examines technical and professional data which is to be exported from the United States. We fully understand your concern over the delay in the return of your proofs from that Division, and will do all we can to have them examined as quickly as possible.

The Technical Data License Division is authorized to order deletion or excision of any information which may be of use to the enemy. Examiners in the Di-

vision believe that the material marked for deletion in your June 19 issue would be of aid to the enemy. The reasoning of the examiners is set forth as follows:

1. The deletion of references to indium, relating to a newly discovered process to provide a safety lining for lead shaving cream and toothpaste tubes. They believe that this new discovery should be kept from the enemy, who, if they learned of it, could turn it to their use.

2. The article explaining the use of vitamin C in preventing heat cramps and heat prostration. It is believed that this information in the hands of our armed forces would give them an advantage over the enemy, particularly in desert warfare where heat prostration and heat cramps are common. If we know how to prevent such disorders and the enemy does not, we certainly have an advantage over our opponents.

3. The deletion of the words, "containing calcium polysulfide," from a story explaining use of this chemical in spraying walls of mines to prevent mercury poisoning. If the enemy is troubled with mercury poisoning in their mines, they could use to advantage a chemical of this nature, whereas, if they do not have this knowledge, their production might be affected and the advantage would be ours.

We are in accord with the ruling of the Technical Data License Division and, therefore, request that regulations covering the export of technical and scientific information be complied with. The June 19 issue of *SCIENCE* may be exported after excision of the objectionable portions which were marked on the proofs returned to you by the Technical Data License Division.

We do not advise that you write your foreign subscribers stating that, "owing to censorship in this country," you are unable to mail your magazine outside the United States, inasmuch as that is not a correct statement. Your magazine may be mailed to points outside the country so long as you comply with the regulations relating to their contents. As for the scientific journals printed in England, they probably are censored prior to publication, following the same procedure as that in force in the United States.

We are not familiar with any regulation promulgated after the beginning of this war, which makes blanket approval of the policy that there should be no suppression of a life-saving discovery on the ground that the enemy could also make use of it.

We were unsuccessful in attempting to contact Prof. Arthur B. Eisenhart, of the National Research Council, to whom you refer. We shall confer with Professor Eisenhart to determine the basis on which the Council issues regulations relating to the export of technical and scientific information.

Thank you for bringing these matters to our attention. Your patriotic cooperation in the future will be greatly appreciated.

LETTER FROM J. McKEEN CATTELL TO COLONEL W. PRESTON CORDERMAN, JULY 8, 1942

Please let me thank you for your courteous letter of June 27 in regard to the censorship of scientific publications. We need, however, further information.

The copies of *SCIENCE* for June 19 and 26 and July 3 have been mailed as usual to some 14,000 subscribers in the United States and Canada. 461 copies have been held for foreign subscribers, pending instructions from you.

The copy of June 19 was released by your censor after three minor elisions. These were all in the syndicated notes supplied by Science Service and had already been printed in many newspapers. They were all concerned with matters of health (one but three words in length) which should not have been censored by a competent authority; the censorship would probably not be upheld if an appeal were made to a higher authority. Please let me know to whom such an appeal should be made. Please also send me a copy of the executive order of December 19, No. 8988 under which your censorship is acting.

The number of *SCIENCE* for June 19 had been printed when your report was received; it is not feasible to print a new edition for foreign subscribers with these elisions. The cost would be large and it would be unethical for a journal to print one edition for the United States and one for foreign subscribers without an explanation of the situation.

No report has as yet been received from the censor on the page proofs of the issues of June 26 and July 3 and 10. It is impossible to delay the publication of a weekly journal; so as stated above, the copies for foreign subscribers are being held until instructions are received from you.

Foreign subscribers will doubtless complain of not receiving the copies of these numbers for which they have paid. Please inform us what should be written to them. I wish that you would consult the Department of State to learn what their attitude would be toward forbidding the sending to foreign nations, especially Mexico, Cuba and South America, of a journal such as *SCIENCE*.

SCIENCE has, of course, refrained from printing any material concerning improvements in explosives or poison gas or any other matter that might promote the efficiency of the armies of the enemy. But it will be a tragedy if American scientific journals are forbidden to publish information that might promote health or limit disease among the people of the countries with which we are at war. It has always been the fine tra-

dition of the medical profession that a physician will do all he can to save lives, even of criminals. It would be appalling if in a war intended to promote freedom and international goodwill, the publication were prohibited of articles on evidence of medical knowledge.

To withhold publication of information that might lead to the promotion of health or the limitation of disease would be a betrayal of the ethics of medical men handed down from past generations. The government now needs 50,000 physicians for the Army. What would they think if it were known to them that such action had been taken; they would be ashamed to meet their colleagues of the allied nations. As I have told you, in the war of 1917 the Surgeon General and the Secretary of War ruled that "We should not consider for a moment holding back a life-saving discovery on the ground that the enemy could also make use of it."

LETTER FROM J. McKEEN CATTELL TO COLONEL W. PRESTON CORDERMAN, JULY 9, 1942

Since writing to you yesterday, July 8, we have received a notice from the censor releasing for mailing abroad the issue of *SCIENCE* for June 26. Copies were prepared for mailing in accordance with your instructions, but to-day, July 9, Mr. Kreider, superintendent of mails at Lancaster, decided after consultation that the copies of *SCIENCE* could not be accepted without open ends in accordance with your specifications, as in this form they would be first class mail. Copies that are now wrapped and stamped in the bindery must be taken from the wrappers and the wrappers sent to Washington for redemption of postage paid.

We trust that after my letters of June 27 and July 8, you will release for mailing the issue of June 19. I have received from Dr. Luther P. Eisenhart, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Scientific Publications of the National Research Council, acting for the Government, a letter dated June 2 in which he writes: "It is not the intent to withhold publication of advances in medical knowledge which would be of wide-spread value in the treatment of war injuries and the control and treatment of disease." This decision would, of course, permit the publication of the unimportant notes that you have censored in the issue of June 19.

You will note that we have conflicting instructions from government agencies, both in regard to what can be printed in *SCIENCE* and under what condition the copies can be mailed abroad. I trust that you will agree with me that national efficiency is seriously impaired under such circumstances.

SCIENCE, as you know, is a weekly journal of the highest standing, the property and official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It was established by Thomas Edison sixty years ago;

was later taken over by Graham Bell, and has had the cooperation of our leading men of science, whose work is so essential to the national welfare. They would not countenance publication of anything that was not in the interest of the nation. Are they not more competent to judge than any one in your office? I trust that you will give us permission to mail copies of *SCIENCE* without requiring censorship of each issue in your office. This causes delays and interference with the regular publication of a journal useful for national efficiency and welfare.

LETTER FROM MAJOR N. V. CARLSON, ACTING CHIEF
POSTAL CENSOR, TO J. McKEEN CATTELL,
JULY 14, 1942

Your letter of July 8, 1942, has been referred to me for consideration and reply. Attached is a copy of Executive Order 8985, although in your letter you referred to the order number as being 8988. It is thought, however, that you had in mind the executive order establishing censorship.

Concerning your question as to possible appeal, it is assumed you are referring to a Board of Appeals which might supersede the action of the examiner of technical data. There is no such Appellate Board functioning. All professional and technical data material is reviewed by the Technical Data Division of the Board of Economic Warfare. Material other than technical data is reviewed by the Office of Censorship. The action taken by both of these agencies is final. However, we have no desire to be arbitrary in our censorship action and will be glad to discuss your problems with you at any time. There is no change in our position regarding the deletions which must be made before your publication is exported.

We have investigated the delay of which you complain in handling proofs of *SCIENCE*, and find from the Board of Economic Warfare, to which they were sent, that the June 26 issue was received on Saturday, July 4, approved on Monday, July 6, and mailed to you the following day. The July 3 issue also was received July 4, approved July 7, and mailed July 8. The July 10 issue was received July 8, but was not accompanied by an application for license, according to the Board of Economic Warfare.

The general question of precensorship of medical publications is being studied and we soon shall be able to provide a suggested code of practices which may be helpful in avoiding material which is objectionable by censorship standards. Any form of censorship is bound to be restrictive, but in the interest of the war effort this temporary expedient is necessary.

LETTER FROM MAJOR N. V. CARLSON TO J. McKEEN
CATTELL, JULY 14, 1942

While we appreciate the contribution your magazine

is making in its field, we nevertheless are unable to grant your request that it be permitted to mail copies abroad without censorship. As stated in our letter of yesterday, in answer to your prior communication, wartime conditions require such examination.

I note that you quote Dr. Luther P. Eisenhart's letter of July 2 in which he stated, "In general, it is not the intent to withhold publication of advances in medical knowledge which would be of widespread value in the treatment of war injuries and the control and treatment of disease." Dr. Eisenhart also said, "Only in instances in which publication would result in military advantage to the enemy is the withholding of scientific papers from publication advisable." We agree with that premise as completely stated.

The National Research Council is a purely advisory organization insofar as scientific publications are concerned and, as you know, has experts available for your consultation and advice. The censorship function, however, does not fall within the field of the council, which I am sure does not agree with your interpretation that it is issuing "conflicting instructions" on material which may be exported.

Insofar as the question of post office regulations raised in your letter of July 8 is concerned, Postal Censorship requires no particular type of wrappers for your publication. The only requirement is that the technical data license be stamped prominently on the outside of the wrapper.

If the publication does not have a license, the copies will be returned to the sender.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

8985

ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP AND PRE- SCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and particularly by section 303, Title III of the act of December 18, 1941, Public Law 354, 77th Congress, 1st Session, and deeming that the public safety demands it, I hereby order as follows:

1. There is hereby established the Office of Censorship, at the head of which shall be a Director of Censorship. The Director of Censorship shall cause to be censored, in his absolute discretion, communications by mail, cable, radio, or other means of transmission passing between the United States and any foreign country or which may be carried by any vessel or other means of transportation touching at any port, place, or Territory of the United States and bound to or from any foreign country, in accordance with such rules and regulations as the President shall from time to time prescribe. The establishment of rules and regulations in addition to the provisions of this

order shall not be a condition to the exercise of the powers herein granted or the censorship by this order directed. The scope of this order shall include all foreign countries except such as may hereafter be expressly excluded by regulation.

2. There is hereby created a Censorship Policy Board, which shall consist of the Vice-President of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Navy, the Director of the Office of Government Reports, and the Director of the Office of Facts and Figures. The Postmaster General shall act as Chairman of the Board. The Censorship Policy Board shall advise the Director of Censorship with respect to policy and the coordination and integration of the censorship herein directed.

3. The Director of Censorship shall establish a Censorship Operating Board, which shall consist of representatives of such departments and agencies of the Government as the Director shall specify. Each representative shall be designated by the head of the department or agency which he represents. The Censorship Operating Board shall, under the supervision of the Director, perform such duties with respect to operations as the Director shall determine.

4. The Director of Censorship is authorized to take all such measures as may be necessary or expedient to administer the powers hereby conferred, and, in addition to the utilization of existing personnel of any department or agency available therefor, to employ, or authorize the employment of, such additional personnel as he may deem requisite.

5. As used in this order the term "United States" shall be construed to include the Territories and possessions of the United States, including the Philippine Islands.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
DECEMBER 19, 1941

No. 8985

LETTER FROM J. MCKEEN CATTELL TO MAJOR N. V. CARLSON, JULY 17, 1942

Please let me acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, both dated July 14. You also sent me the executive order, for which I asked, establishing the Office of Censorship and prescribing its functions and powers. This executive order empowers the Office of Censorship to censor "communications by mail, cable, radio and other means of transmission passing between the United States and any foreign country." It also creates a censorship policy board consisting of the Vice President of the United States and other officers of the Government. It apparently does not refer in any way to the censorship of periodical publications. You tell me that action taken by

your office is final and that there can be no appeal. Surely there can be an appeal to the Censorship Policy Board and also to the courts. It seems rather futile to refer you to the first article of the Bill of Rights, which provides that there shall be no suppression of freedom of the press. If the Constitution seems to be violated, there can be an appeal all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States.

I have, however, no wish to discuss matters that should be taken up by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The American Medical Association, the Publishers' Association and other bodies, for your rulings concern not only SCIENCE but all publications of the country.

I must, however, attend to the problems that you raise concerning SCIENCE. Your office, in instructions dated March 18, read "After the license is granted, each copy must be wrapped without open ends." Now on July 14 you write: "Postal censorship requires no particular type of wrappers for your publication." How do you reconcile these conflicting instructions? If a number of SCIENCE has not been censored, which has happened just once, you send us a license number to send 461 copies to foreign subscribers, each of which must be signed individually. What is to be done about other copies that should be sent abroad? We must fill special orders, supply copies lost in the mails, and we always send a number of copies to contributors, many of whom reside abroad. How can these copies be sent?

The pages of the issue of SCIENCE for July 3 were sent to you in duplicate on June 30. You state that they were received on July 4, approved on July 7 and mailed on July 8. Every issue of SCIENCE has been published on Fridays without exception, so far as I remember, during the more than forty-six years that I have edited the journal. You surely could not have wanted us to hold up the printing of SCIENCE for some fourteen thousand subscribers in the United States until the pages had been censored after a delay of ten days. When we received the censored sheets, they contained exactly one elision as follows:

A new sulfa drug has been announced by Sharp and Dohme. It is succinyl sulfathiazidine, which the firm has released under the trade name, Sulfasuzidine. Studies in the laboratory and with patients have shown that it is active against dysentery and other intestinal tract germs and may therefore be effective in preventing infection following operations within the abdomen. It is also claimed that it cures carriers of dysentery germs.

This note was printed with other syndicated material sent to us by Science Service, which had been distributed to newspapers from Maine to California. It should not, in any case, have been censored, for it referred to an alleged advance in medical science which

you yourself write should not be suppressed "unless it would result in military advantage to the enemy." Now what shall we do with the 461 copies of *SCIENCE* that we are holding for foreign subscribers? Please answer this question definitely. Please also tell me what should be written to foreign subscribers who have not received their copies of *SCIENCE* on account of the censorship.

I shall take it for granted, unless you write to me to the contrary, that our correspondence may be shown to others and published in *SCIENCE*, should that seem to me to be in the interest of science and the nation.

LETTER FROM COLONEL W. PRESTON CORDERMAN TO
J. McKEEN CATTELL, JULY 21, 1942

In order to avoid any further confusion concerning the jurisdiction of Postal Censorship, we reiterate that Postal Censorship is not concerned with publications distributed within the continental limits of the United States. However, Postal Censorship is charged with the responsibility of examining publications and communications which are placed in the international mails for export, and the suppression of any material which would be of aid to the enemy and injurious to the welfare of the United States and Allied Nations.

Thus, we believe you will understand, the duties of Postal Censorship include safeguarding scientific and technical information which would be of military value to the enemy. It was the considered opinion of the examiners of the Technical Data License Division of the Board of Economic Warfare that the articles

ordered deleted from your publication would be of military value to the enemy. Your publication received an export license with a provision that the objectionable material be deleted before the magazines were placed in the mails for export.

Again we state that Postal Censorship has no objection to the mailing of *SCIENCE* to foreign subscribers provided the war-time restrictions of censorship are complied with and that excisions of objectionable material noted in the licenses are made prior to international mailing. This is not an arbitrary rule applied only to *SCIENCE*, but is a principle that is adhered to by all publications containing technical, scientific and professional data, which are exported.

Our letter of July 14 informed you that for your magazine no "special type of wrapper" need be used. The only requirement in this respect is that the Technical Data License be placed in a prominent position on the front of the wrappers.

You may send the 461 copies of your publication to foreign subscribers provided objectionable material is deleted and the export license is placed on the wrappers. Copies of every issue of your publication may be mailed to foreign subscribers and contributors provided those issues are licensed and provisions of the license are complied with.

Your cooperation in aiding the purpose of censorship will be greatly appreciated. Naturally, we have no objection to your publication of our correspondence if you feel a useful purpose will be served by your so doing.

OBITUARY

WADE HAMPTON BROWN

WADE HAMPTON BROWN died at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, on August 4, 1942. His sudden death terminated a career of original thought and pioneer research of such caliber and scope as to render premature any present attempt to appreciate or evaluate his position in American medicine.

Dr. Brown was born in Sparta, Georgia, on October 18, 1878. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Nashville in 1899 and his degree in medicine from Johns Hopkins in 1907. He instructed in pathology at the University of Virginia and at the University of Wisconsin until 1911, when he was made professor of pathology at the University of North Carolina. His interest in education began in pre-medical years as a teacher in the rural schools of Texas and was maintained throughout his life, but an opportunity to devote full time to research offered broader fields for his abilities and in 1913 he began his long association with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. He was made a full member of

the scientific staff in 1922 and continued active research, first in New York and later in Princeton, throughout the remainder of his life.

His early work was concerned with pathological pigmentations and it is a commentary on his ability that his original observations still hold despite the introduction of new and refined techniques. His research in experimental syphilis, the chemotherapy of trypanosome and spirochete infections and cancer were of profound influence. He contributed much to the knowledge of the biology of syphilis, played a dominant role in the elaboration of trypanamide and discovered and successfully transplanted the rabbit tumor which now bears his name. However, the greater and more fundamental significance of this work is referable to coincident observations on animal behavior which prompted his major undertaking, the study of constitution and environment in relation to disease.

With the exception of preliminary observations reported in a Harvey Lecture in 1929, the results of