

establishment of better relations between all nations and constitute a real progress of our civilization.

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THE NATURAL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF CHINA¹

THE following letter, dated January 24, has been addressed to the American Association for the Advancement of Science:

We learned with great admiration and pride the splendid part the members of your Academy have played in the present war against fascism and barbarism. Our country and especially the cultural institutions have suffered deliberate and wanton destructions from the hands of the Japanese fascists during the present invasion. In spite of this, we are endeavoring to do our best to serve our country and the noble cause of our allies with the meager equipments and literature that were left to us. We sincerely believe that science and democracy are indispensable in our modern world, but science without democracy means fascism and Hitlerism and democracy could not function efficiently and smoothly without scientific knowledge and the scientific means of production to satisfy the cultural and material needs of the masses. We further believe that the cooperation and collaboration of the scientific workers of the world will help us to gain a quick victory and will also facilitate the laying down of the foundation of permanent peace immediately after the war. In order to do our modest part towards the goal of international scientific cooperation we have compiled a paper called "Acta Brevia Sinensia" in which the research activities and the recent news of the various institutions of our country are reported at definite intervals, and at the same time we are preparing to issue another paper, the main purpose of which is to print scientific news and abstracts of scientific papers of our allies. In order to make it a success we, therefore, beg your kind cooperation, and hoping you would kindly supply us the scientific news and abstracts of papers of your country.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a short account of our society and our activities. As we are late comers in the realm of science and technology we should be very thankful if you would kindly favor us with your words of wisdom.

May this letter serve as a messenger boy to bring to you our hearty greetings and warmest congratulations for the patriotic works so wonderfully performed in the present struggle against the enemy of science and humanity.

With New Year's greetings,
CHANG-WANG TU,
(Secretary for Foreign Relations)

An account is enclosed giving a list of the activities of the society, which reads:

¹ Transmitted by the China Section of the Science, Education and Art Division of The Department of State, March 1, 1944. Translated from the official letter in Chinese.

1. History and Aims:

The society was established in 1927 with a view to achieve the following: (a) to spread scientific knowledge to the masses; (b) to apply scientific and technological knowledge to national reconstruction; (c) to promote scientific research; (d) to facilitate scientific cooperation.

2. Organization:

There are thirteen branch societies established in various districts of free China and three additional ones in Europe and America. The members of the society total 1,800. Under the head office at Chungking there are four committees: (a) Committee for General Affairs; (b) Committee for Research and Culture; (c) Committee for Organization; (d) Committee for Social Service.

3. Activities:

The following works of importance have been carried out by the society since its establishment:

(a) The publication of the *Scientific World*. Twelve volumes have been issued since 1932. This magazine is a very popular scientific journal in China.

(b) The organization of scientific expeditions. Since 1937 two scientific expeditions have been sent out by the society to explore the natural resources, to study the physical and bio-geography of provinces such as Sikang, Kansu and Ninghsia. The results of these expeditions are contained in the reports published afterwards.

(c) The publishing of scientific books concerning the problems of national defense. The following books are already in press: i. "On the Principles of Flight"; ii. "Principles of Aeroplane Construction"; iii. "Explosives"; iv. "Precaution Against Poisonous Gases"; v. "Ballistics." In addition, there are some twenty volumes under preparation.

(d) Public lectures and radio talks on science. Public lectures and radio talks on scientific subjects have been given periodically to the public in various cities of China.

(e) The publication of "Acta Brevia Sinensia." This paper intends to convey the scientific works done in China to the scientific workers of the democratic world. The society is planning to publish a bulletin to print the scientific news and achievements of our allies with the cooperation of the leading scientific societies of the democratic world.

(f) Future projects. The members of the society feel that they should devote more time to the society and the masses, so plans have been drawn accordingly. The more important ones will be carried out as soon as we have the money, and they are: (i) to establish a "Science Museum" and a "Science Library"; (ii) to organize an institute for scientific service; (iii) to publish a journal for original research work, etc.

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SOVIET BIOLOGY

THE eulogy of Soviet biology published in a recent issue of *SCIENCE*¹ did not present a realistic survey of the present situation. The author did not discuss the most significant trend of biological research in the

¹ L. C. Dunn, *SCIENCE*, January 28, 1944.