

To take the illiterate peasants as the norm can only distort our total picture of what is involved, for even though numerically preponderant these immigrants are swayed by their leaders. Finally, there is the generic problem, in Europe not less than in America, of a rural population adapting itself to an urban culture. I agree with Messrs. Conrad M. Arensberg and Solon T. Kimball¹¹ that such problems can not be solved in purely economic terms. But what is it, apart from economic motives, that drives individuals from the security of a cozy familial, communal, rural existence into domestic service in the towns, and from domestic service into factories? "Back to the land"

has more than once been a rousing slogan; why does its effectiveness peter out?

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I should like to repeat that we in America have been fortunate in our past opportunities. The probabilities are that we shall not be less so in the future. Disturbing as our "ethnic minorities" potentially are to our body politic, they offer rewarding and as yet inadequately utilized fields for research. Further, the World War is expanding our interests. As our archeologists have already turned pan-Americans, let us cease being Americanists and turn global anthropologists.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ALTON OCHSNER MEDICAL FOUNDATION

The Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation in New Orleans is a non-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Louisiana for the following general purposes:

1. To conduct research in the causes, prevention and treatment of disease.
2. To provide fellowships whereby selected young physicians who have completed their internships may be trained in the various special branches of medicine and surgery.
3. To provide instruction for practicing physicians and surgeons.
4. To provide diagnostic facilities and hospital care for selected indigent patients.

The charter under which the foundation operates provides that no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, but that those earnings shall be devoted exclusively to the advancement of medical science, and to educational, charitable and literary purposes.

The foundation maintains paid fellowships for young physicians who have had at least one year of hospital training in order to enable them to continue their studies and research. These men are accepted for training in various medical and surgical specialties for periods of from one to three years.

Another purpose of the foundation is to conduct laboratory and clinical research into the causes, prevention and treatment of disease. Facilities in this direction have been enlarged considerably through the recent organization of laboratories for chemical research. The new laboratories provide means for close cooperation between clinicians and chemists on questions of mutual interest. It is expected that a frank and mutual exchange of ideas between members of the

two professions will stimulate joint investigative work on diagnostic and therapeutic problems.

The research activities of the chemical laboratories will be concerned especially with the therapeutic aspects of medical enzymology. By this is meant work dealing with the role of extracellular and intracellular enzymes in disease and with disturbances in physiological mechanisms linked to abnormalities in enzyme activity, balance, concentration and function. Whenever desirable for therapeutic purposes, attempts will be made to restore or to modify normal enzymatic activities of the diseased organism. According to the official statement:

It is evident that investigative work in this direction opens up new approaches to a large variety of therapeutic problems. The development of this field has a logical companion in present trends in clinical analytical chemistry, where determinations of biological catalysts are just beginning to replace successfully the use of functional and tolerance tests and the measurement of a variety of metabolites. The program of the chemical research laboratories as described above constitutes perhaps the first instance of a joint attempt by clinicians and chemists to use recent advances in enzymology for the solution of therapeutic problems.

According to equipment the chemical research laboratories of the Ochsner Foundation consist of three units. The first unit contains modern technical facilities used in biochemical research work, including equipment for the characterization of minute amounts of material. The second unit is fully equipped for work in synthetic organic chemistry. The third unit has the instruments required for research in clinical analytical chemistry. The work of this last unit will deal with the improvement of present clinical laboratory procedures in order to approach more closely the high standards of reliability which are characteristic for other branches of analytical microchemistry.

¹¹ "Family and Community in Ireland," 1940.