

of research), and for sixteen years he carried the entire financial responsibility and editorial burden for the first thirty-three volumes, that is, until 1914, when Dr. Porter presented this journal (including back volumes in stock) as a gift to the American Physiological Society.

These are significant services to science and to our fellow men. They call for more than a passing note, as they echo and amplify the voice of the English chemist, James Smithson of a hundred years ago, whose vision of science, whose faith in man and whose material wealth established the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, "*for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.*"

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ENTOMOLOGY IN WAR-TORN CHINA

ENTOMOLOGY, along with other sciences, is suffering greatly in China under the pressures and privations of the war, which for China has lasted so long and been so hard. The war has not only destroyed so much in the way of university buildings, libraries, laboratory equipment, insect collections and the like, and forced the moving or repeated moving of nearly all the educational and research institutions of the country, but has almost completely closed the sources of supply of literature, equipment and materials from the outside world. The economic situation within the country, together with the restrictions of war, have totally prevented or greatly hampered the manufacture of equipment and the reprinting of books. Thus the student, teacher, research specialist, medical entomologist and agricultural extension worker have all had to attempt to pursue their work against almost insuperable odds.

Furthermore, American contributions to Chinese entomology have been in a way more hampered than the field as a whole. This is partly because some of the institutions in which Americans participate did not move to West China during the early part of the war before American entry. This was because they enjoyed some immunity from the Japanese, or found it convenient to move to, or remain in, places like the International Concession in Shanghai, or the British colony of Hong Kong, and resulted in their being caught with the coming of Pearl Harbor. Likewise, some of the American teachers who were in Free

China have had to return home for health or other reasons, including the difficulty of adequate financing as a result of the extreme inflation in China.

The following excerpts from a recent letter from Professor B. A. Slocum, professor of entomology in the College of Agriculture of the University of Nanking, at Chengtu in Szechuan Province, can perhaps more graphically emphasize the grave situation of entomology in China to-day:

Entomology is marking time right now, for we do not have funds for research work. We are having trouble even to secure funds for the research of our graduate students. . . . Our university is having to let 21 per cent. of our staff go this summer. We have cut everything to the bone. For example, I had only \$5,000 Chinese currency [less than US\$50.00, officially, or under US\$20.00 on the black (open) market] for my whole division this past year. Right now we are trying to sell equipment to keep going. It is difficult to keep up the morale of the staff under such conditions. . . . My division is opening an insecticide laboratory this summer. One of my students who just received his M.S. minoring in industrial chemistry will have charge of it.

Letters from others indicate that most of the universities or scientific institutions are in the same state to a greater or lesser degree. Some have been cut off from the rest of Free China by the recent merger in Kwangsi of Japanese forces from Hunan and Kwangtung, and fear they may have to close or try to move again. Letters from some have urged that scientists in this country collect duplicate literature or equipment to send to China as soon as circumstances permit.

American aid to Chinese entomology (or other sciences) during this critical period can be of great value, not only in reviving and strengthening it and helping in the solution of many pressing problems, but it can also react with beneficial results in America. Chinese entomologists have contributed much to world entomology, and will do so much more in the future, and the making known of their pests, beneficial parasites and insecticides, and the solution of their problems in medical entomology, can be of great benefit to America as well as to the Orient. If this country can give literature, equipment and specimens, and arrange scholarships and exchange of students, professors and research specialists, those objectives can sooner be attained, with much mutual benefit, including progress towards an harmonious world society.

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THE THREAT TO PURE SCIENCE

THE article "The Threat to Pure Science" by Alexander Stern¹ raises a number of questions relative to

¹ A. W. Stern, SCIENCE, October 20, 1944.