

many admirable people have been involved in the creation and implementation of our foreign policy. It would be unreasonable, though, to expect public figures, charged with the responsibility of carrying out our policies, to be publically critical of the policies that they represent. A discussion of our shortcomings can be more gracefully carried out among those of us who do not pretend to represent America to the world.

My criticism of our present policies would be not so much that they are based on military power, but that they are based almost *exclusively* upon military power, with no alternatives to give flexibility to our negotiations. And that, in meeting what we claim is a temporary emergency, we are subsidizing many enemies of the liberal, democratic tradition that we claim to represent, and ignoring many needs that should have our sympathy. A policy that stands in the way of legitimate aspirations of the human race cannot, in the long run, be a sound policy for a nation which contains only 7 per cent of that race.

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"THE true and lawful goal of the sciences is simply this, that human life be enriched by new discoveries and powers. The great majority have no feeling for this. Their thoughts never rise above money-making and the routine of their calling." Thus wrote Francis Bacon in the *Novum Organum*. Of course Bacon knew that "the mechanical arts may be turned either way, and serve either for the cure or for the hurt." In one of his fables he says explicitly: "Yet out of the same fountain come instruments of lust, and also instruments of death. For (not to speak of the arts of procurers) the most exquisite poisons, as well as guns, and such like engines of destruction, are the fruits of mechanical invention; and well we know how far in cruelty and destructiveness they exceed the Minotaur himself." Even before Bacon, and certainly ever since, men have known that science means knowledge and power, both of which may be misused. But those of us who reject a philosophy of despair see science as good because it is our basis of hope for improved human welfare in an unexplored future.

On the whole the best answer to the misrepresentation of "Dangers Confronting American Science" made by Joseph K. Marcus (*SCIENCE*, 117, 507 [1953]), is to urge that the reader compare it with the original article. Dr. Marcus seems to have little interest in our principal objective, that of improving the status of science in this country. Furthermore the practice of mind reading, which some of his inferences suggest, is neither a part of the accepted method of science nor a suitable basis for scientific discussion. We therefore refer the reader to *SCIENCE*, 116, 439 (1952), and also call his attention to the guest editorial in the April, 1953, issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, "Basic Science and the Cold War," originally published under the title "Bathwater and the Baby," by Dr. R. E. Peierls.

The letters in response to "Dangers Confronting American Science" that were forwarded to us by the editors of *SCIENCE*, and others received directly, have been, on the whole, so favorable as to constitute substantial basis for hope and optimism. The late Edwin G. Conklin called it "the most telling call to scientists to return to the ethics of real science that I have seen in this period of lost ideals." With profound respect for the memory of one of America's greatest scientists, we venture the belief that the ideals are not lost and only partly suppressed. If scientists and scientific societies exercise their right and duty to discuss freely and reasonably the main problem, that of bettering the conditions for the progress of science, not only will science itself benefit but the welfare of the nation as well.

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## Scientific Book Register

**Atoms, Men and God.** Paul E. Sabine. New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 226 pp. \$3.75.

**Engineering Drawing.** Josef Vincent Lombardo, Lewis O. Johnson, and W. Irwin Short. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1953. 432 pp. Illus. \$2.00.

**Science in Daily Life.** (For high schools). Francis D. Curtis and George Greisen Mallinson. Boston-London: Ginn, 1953. 570 pp. Illus. \$3.96.

**Experimental Studies in Psychiatric Art.** E. Cunningham Dax. Philadelphia, Pa.: Lippincott, 1953. 100 pp. Illus. + plates. \$5.00.

**The Making of A Scientist.** Anne Roe. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1953. 244 pp. \$3.75.

**Annual Review of Plant Physiology**, Vol. IV. Daniel I. Arnon and Leonard Machlis, Eds. Stanford, Calif.: Annual Reviews, 1953. 453 pp. Illus. \$6.00.

**Cybernetics: Circular Causal and Feedback Mechanisms in Biological and Social Systems.** Transactions of the Ninth Conference, March 20-21, 1952, New York. Heinz von Foerster, Ed. New York: Josiah Macy, Jr. Fdn., 1953. 184 pp. Illus. \$4.00.

**Stress Waves in Solids.** Monographs on the Physics and Chemistry of Materials. H. Kolsky. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1953. 211 pp. Illus. + plates \$5.00.

**Aviation Toxicology.** An introduction to the subject and a handbook of data. Prepared under the direction of the Committee on Aviation Toxicology, Aero Medical Association. New York-Toronto: Blakiston, 1953. 120 pp. Illus. \$4.00.

**Glaucoma: Pathology and Therapy.** Paul Weinstein; trans. by Julius Foldes. St. Louis: Mosby, 1953. 295 pp. Illus. \$8.00.

**The Road to Abundance.** Jacob Rosin and Max Eastman. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1953. 166 pp. \$3.50.

**Elementary Electricity for Technical Students**, Vol. I. A. C. Davies. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1953. 132 pp. Illus. \$1.50.

**The Social Insects.** O. W. Richards. London: Macdonald; New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 219 pp. Illus. + plates. \$4.75.

**Linear Algebra and Matrix Theory.** Robert R. Stoll. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1952. 272 pp. \$6.00.