

6 April 1956, Volume 123, Number 3197

# SCIENCE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Board of Directors

PAUL B. SEARS, *President*  
LAURENCE H. SNYDER, *President Elect*  
GEORGE W. BEADLE, *Retiring President*  
WALLACE R. BRODE  
PAUL M. GROSS  
GEORGE R. HARRISON  
MARK H. INGRAHAM  
PAUL E. KLOPSTEG  
CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE  
MARGARET MEAD  
THOMAS PARK  
PAUL A. SCHERER, *Treasurer*  
DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*

DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*

GRAHAM DUSHANE, *Editor*

CHARLOTTE V. MEETING, *Assistant Editor*

Editorial Board

MARK H. ADAMS      KARL LARK-HOROVITZ  
WALLACE R. BRODE      EDWIN M. LERNER  
BENTLEY GLASS      WILLIAM L. STRAUS, JR.

Editorial Staff

SARAH S. DEES, JUNE M. FORBES, OLIVER W.  
HEATWOLE, YUKIE KOZAI, JEAN MCCARTHY, ELLEN  
E. MURPHY, ROBERT V. ORMES, BETHSABE PEDER-  
SEN, JOSEPH TURNER, JACQUELYN VOLLMER

EARL J. SCHERAGO, *Advertising Representative*

SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. Entered at the Lancaster, Pa., Post Office as second class matter under the Act of 3 March 1879.

SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* and in the *Industrial Arts Index*.

Editorial and personnel-placement correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors.

Display-advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 604, 11 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.

Change of address: The notification should reach us 4 weeks in advance. If possible, please furnish an address stencil label from a recent issue. Be sure to give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers, if any.

Annual subscriptions: \$7.50; foreign postage, \$1; Canadian postage, 50¢. Single copies, 25¢. Special rates to members of the AAAS. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.

The AAAS also publishes THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY.

## Science in the *Saturday Review*

Scientists often and justly point out that there is not enough general understanding of what science is and of what scientists are like. They will accordingly applaud the *Saturday Review* for inaugurating, in the issue of 24 March, a monthly section on "Science and research."

In their introduction to the new section, the editors say that they have "... always been concerned with the creative intelligence at work—with the conditions that favor such work and with the implications of that work for society as a whole ... we have tried to relate the world of art to the world of ideas. For some years, however, we have felt the need to give greater attention to the inquiring mind at work on the frontier of new knowledge. Such work is not infrequently an end in itself; it is not unlike art in this respect." They add that "... Science is intimately shaping and moving their [nonscientists'] lives from day to day." We intend to document our observation that Science is not only relevant to a creative culture but is indeed a vital part of it; and that education for the whole man must respect it."

We are in wholehearted agreement with these aims and are interested in seeing how the *Saturday Review* proposes to attain them.

The department entitled "Personality portrait" gives a well-balanced and engaging account of Laurence Snyder, president elect of the AAAS. Snyder's work in human genetics is related to the large problems of radiation damage and to improvement in the human race, but his qualities as a human being are not neglected. He is pictured, quite rightly and quite believably, as a warm and likable person. This is a welcome departure from the all-too-familiar type of article that exclaims in wonder at the accomplishments of the wizards of science.

The "Books in science" section is well done but is disappointingly short. Only three books are reviewed: James B. Conant's *The Citadel of Learning*, W. L. Oliver's *A Solomon Island Society*, and D. S. Teeple's *Atomic Energy: a Constructive Proposal*.

Under the title "The research frontier," ten distinguished scientists present short statements about research problems and approaches of importance.

Other feature articles will also be as interesting to the scientist as to the nonscientist. Harrison Brown presents a clear and readable exposition of "The case for pure research." The high status of scientists and engineers and the educational system in the U.S.S.R. are described and interpreted by John Turkevich in "The Soviet's scientific elite." A companion article is M. H. Trytten's "Why our thinkpower is dwindling," in which we find a discussion of deficiencies in the education of scientists and engineers in the United States as well as an appraisal of the possibilities for improvement.

The article that is most likely to stimulate discussion and generate controversy is the report of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee on the Polio Vaccine, in which editorial remarks are interpolated to give the background for the committee statements and to take issue with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

On the whole, the *Saturday Review* is off to a good start in its new venture with a clear, readable, but not sensationalized account of science in our society. We extend our best wishes.—G. DuS.

