

Meetings and Societies

Humanist and Ethical Union

Members of the second Congress of the International Humanist and Ethical Union, from 21 countries, were laymen with practical social interests and academic persons from biological, sociological, and philosophical fields. The physical sciences were poorly represented, but the social impact of the physical sciences dominated and shaped the thinking of the congress.

In his presidential address, "Mankind now," Lord Boyd Orr enunciated the general theme of the congress: science, which has advanced farther in the last 50 years than in the previous 2000, is pushing mankind into a new age, which will differ from the early 19th century by more than that era differed from early extinct civilizations; the only hope for the survival of our civilization is in radical readjustment to the new conditions which modern science has created; a humanist movement is required, by its faith in science and in human responsibility, to play a leading part in effecting this radical readjustment. Boyd Orr took as the three main tasks of readjustment the abolition of war, the distribution of plenty, and the arrest of the growth of population, and he insisted, finally, on the all-important character of freedom of thought and communication as the source of science and of progress and as the characteristic contribution of humanism.

T. T. ten Have (professor of psychology and social ethics at the University of Amsterdam), in an address on "The humanistic venture in our time," made a more elaborate analysis of the present situation. Describing the prominent and alarming forms of disintegration and of integration, he related them to liberation, reevaluations, and recognition of new responsibilities and concluded that man will be educated by an increasing awareness of the situation and will convert his loss of rootedness into a new relatedness, rationally and emotionally sound.

J. Bronowski, addressing the congress on "Science and responsibility," rebutted the thesis that science is only a means, which should be subordinated to ends imposed dogmatically by the traditional

moral codes. Truth is the paramount value from which all other values are derived; it is the drive for knowledge which makes men human, for knowledge is the tool by which they gain the freedom to be most fully themselves, and science has made fulfillment the driving motive of our civilization. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the scientist to form new moral codes appropriate to our civilization and to create a universal ethic by educating himself and the public in the universal applicability of scientific method.

H. J. Muller, speaking on "Radioactive fallout in relation to human progress," compared the estimated harmful effects of nuclear tests already held with those resulting from unavoidable natural causes and from medical practice, in order to show that the widespread public protest expressed not so much indignation at the tests as a dread of nuclear war and therefore of nuclear weapons. He argued that America's development of nuclear weapons had saved the Western world and that the present situation of stalemate gave the world, for the first time in history, a precarious security. Instead of seeking an illusory return to conventional arms, he said, the great powers should maintain the stalemate by removing the barriers of secrecy in working out further development of nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, the time of present restraint should be used to lay the foundations of lasting peace. Muller had just come from a world conference of scientists at Pugwash, the estate of Cyrus Eaton in Nova Scotia, which followed the Einstein-Russell initiative.

The congress was divided into four sections to discuss papers on the humanist outlook on philosophy, personal life, social life, and organization. In the main paper on philosophy, Horace Friess (professor of philosophy at Columbia University) started from the position of Julian Huxley at the first congress—namely, that through the development of science, the possibility of man's assuming a hitherto unimagined responsibility for the direction of life on this planet stands out against the alternative of present drift into a seriously deteriorated condition. He quoted from the report to the American Association for

the Advancement of Science of the Interim Committee on the Social Aspects of Science to indicate the unsatisfactory present social conditions for the growth and application of science. In deprecating prevalent attitudes and fears and calling for a creative relationship between specialized scientific and general human intelligence, he suggested the cooperation between specialist and patient in modern psychotherapy as the type of interplay needed to promote a more humanistic use of science. The report of this section recognized science as the means of increasing human fulfillment and as the basis and test of humanist convictions but included a warning against utopian thinking. The section adopted a motion by Huxley to form a panel for the preparation of a "Humanist manifesto," which should include a statement of the grounds and contents of humanist beliefs, of the humanists' ultimate and immediate aims, and of the basic differences between humanism and other major contemporary systems of thought and belief.

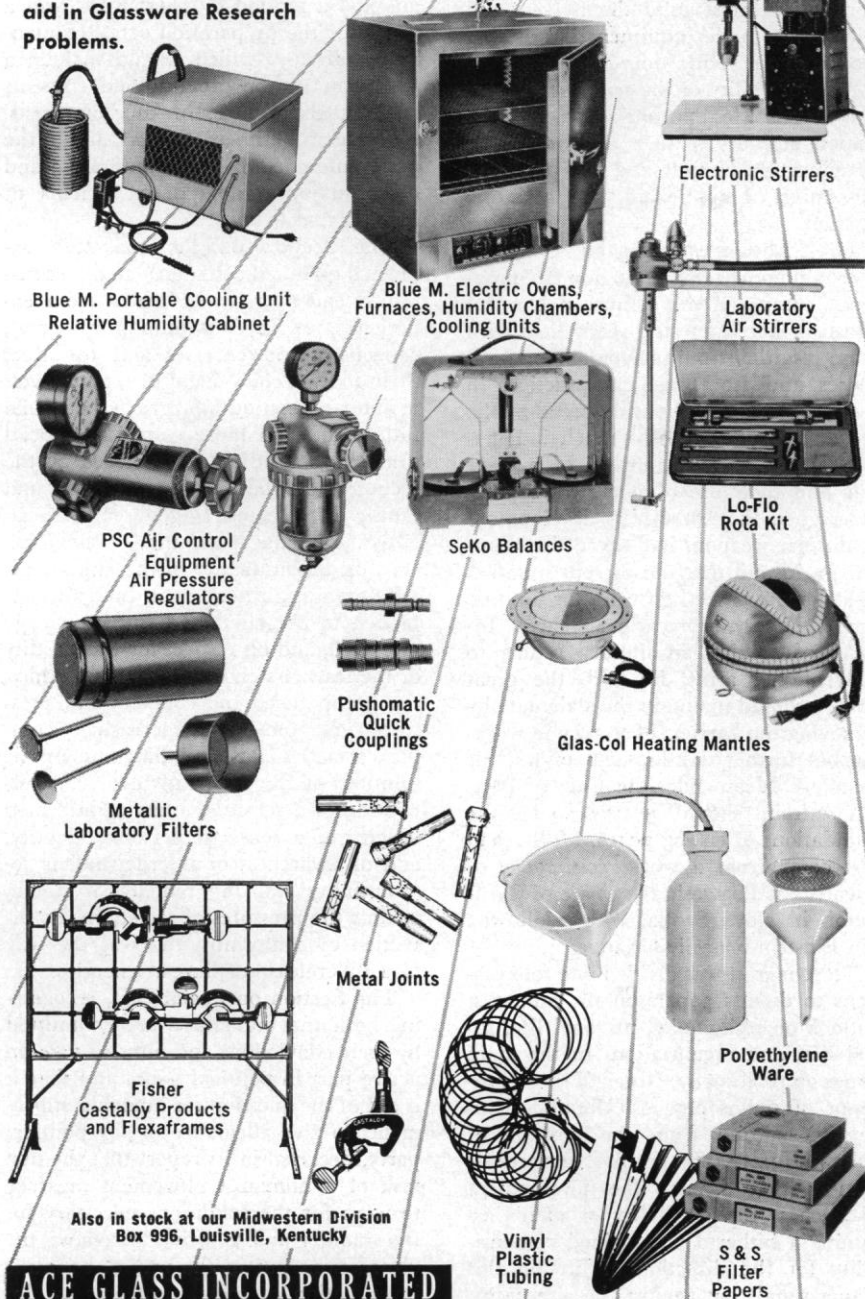
The Section on Personal Life expressed qualified confidence in man's sustained endeavor, as he learns from experience, to develop human resources, capacities, and energies and to direct them to the achievement of higher levels of human relationship, greater personal fulfillment, and more responsible social institutions. The topics discussed by the section were education, marriage and family life, facing tragedy, and social ethics. On education, there was insistence on the mutuality of the child-adult relationship, on honesty in both the approach to the child and the knowledge imparted, and on respect for the validity of the learner's choices. On social ethics, the group faced the conflicts and pressures generated by our increasingly complex societies and repudiated dogmatic solutions of the problems involved. Cultivation of a sensitive ethic, of informed insight, of a sense of personal identity, and of awareness of interdependent responsibility was the remedy, it stated, against the pressures of society in the direction of conformity and was the way to a full release of human energies.

The Section on Social Life, recognizing both that humanists are committed by their convictions and aims to take an active part in political issues and that it is out of the question for humanist movements to give allegiance to any political party, declared in its report that the first task of a humanist movement must be to work for the conditions necessary for free inquiry and to strive to remove the obstructions put in the way of scientific investigation of social problems by, for example, vested interests and dogmatic attitudes. In this connection, full support for the work of UNESCO was urged.

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Other points stressed were the importance of bringing an adequate concern for human values into the developing science of industrial management and the need for experimentation in the structure and control of industrial undertakings; support for the organizations and agencies studying and dealing with the fundamental problem of population; and the need to keep the political, social, and cultural development of the poorer countries in step with their economic expansion.

At the final plenary session, the congress adopted, for action, a statement which posed the problem of defense in the present arms situation. "We all have vital interests in the world to be defended and extended: how can it be done without wrecking the whole human enterprise? That is the crude question which demands a set of realistic answers." Our thinking on this question is evidently confused, precipitate, and frightened. The situation is unprecedented, and our habitual political ideas and ideals have become too suddenly obsolescent for clear and united thinking relative to new and adequate forms of political behavior to emerge without a very special and informed effort. What is wanted first of all, to focus and enlighten world thinking on this most vital human question, is a world commission of experts of the highest caliber in the fields of politics, sociology, philosophy, and the sciences to examine the problem of the defense and development of legitimate interests in all its aspects. This has become a common human problem, not merely the problem of sovereign states or of power blocs, and it is this new situation that requires new thinking, which must be world thinking. The congress adopted the statement and authorized the executive committee of the International Humanist and Ethical Union to try to mobilize an informed public demand for such a conference or commission.

H. J. BLACKHAM
Ethical Union, London, England

Structure of the Nucleus

The Robert A. Welch Foundation will sponsor a research conference on The Structure of the Nucleus in Houston, Tex., 20-22 November. Some 500 scientists from all over the world are expected to attend.

The program includes: Glenn T. Seaborg, "Man-Made Elements"; D. H. Wilkinson, "The Structure of the Light Nuclei"; Eugene P. Wigner, "Isotopic Spin—A Quantum Number for Nuclei"; J. Hans Jensen, "Progress in the Theory of Nuclear Structure"; Ernest O. Lawrence, "Some Recent Developments in Nuclear Science"; L. Van Hove, "The Structure of Nuclear Matter as a Prob-

lem in the Quantum Theory of Many Particle Systems"; and W. F. Libby, "Nuclear Techniques in Chemistry."

For information write to the Robert A. Welch Foundation, 20th Floor Bank of the Southwest Building, Houston 2, Tex.

Technical Writers

The Society of the Association of Technical Writers and Editors will hold its fifth annual national convention 13-15 November at the Statler Hotel in New York. This is the first convention held since the merger of the Association and the Society of Technical Writers. The theme of the convention will be the role of the publications expert in advancing the frontiers of science. For information, communicate with Donald R. Alt, 3506 94th St., Jackson Heights 72, N.Y.

International Cancer Congress

The International Union Against Cancer will award a limited number of travel grants to enable young scientists to attend the Seventh International Cancer Congress in London, England, 6-12 July 1958. Applicants under 35 who do not yet hold senior appointments will receive preference if they have made significant contributions to cancer literature.

The grants will cover part or all of the travel expenses from and to the country of residence, but no subsistence allowance will be provided. For application forms write to I. Berenblum, Chairman, Committee for Young Scientists, U.I.C.C., Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel.

Forthcoming Events

November

25-27. American Acad. for Cerebral Palsy, 11th annual, New Orleans, La. (R. R. Rembolt, Iowa Hospital-School State University of Iowa, Iowa City.)

25-27. Physics and Dynamics of Fluids, APS, Bethlehem, Pa. (F. N. Frenkiel, Applied Physics Lab., Johns Hopkins Univ., Silver Spring, Md.)

26-28. Central Assoc. of Science and Mathematics Teachers, 57th annual, Chicago, Ill. (L. Panush, Henry Ford High School, Detroit 19, Michigan.)

28-29. American Physical Soc., St. Louis, Mo. (K. K. Darrow, Columbia Univ., New York 27.)

29-30. American Soc. of Animal Production, annual, Chicago, Ill. (H. H. Stonaker, Animal Husbandry Dept., Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins.)

December

1-6. American Soc. of Mechanical Engineers, annual, New York, N.Y. (C. E. Davies, ASME, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

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1-15. Bahamas Medical Conf., 4th, Nassau, Bahamas. (B. L. Frank, 1290 Pine Ave., W. Montreal, Que., Canada.)

2-5. American Rocket Soc., annual, New York. (J. J. Harford, ARS, 500 Fifth Ave., New York 36.)

2-5. Entomological Soc. of America, annual, Memphis, Tenn. (R. H. Nelson, ESA, 1530 P St., NW, Washington 5.)

3-4. Human Factors in Systems Engineering, symp., Philadelphia, Pa. (C. Fowler, American Electronic Labs., 121 N. 7 St., Philadelphia.)

4-8. American Psychoanalytic Assoc., New York, N.Y. (J. N. McVeigh, APA, 36 W. 44 St., New York 36.)

4-10. American Acad. of Optometry, annual, Chicago, Ill. (C. C. Koch, 1506-

1508 Foshay Tower, Minneapolis 2, Minn.)

5-7. Texas Acad. of Science, annual, Dallas. (G. C. Parker, Education Dept., Texas A&M College, College Station.)

5-8. American College of Cardiology, 6th interim, Cincinnati, O. (P. Reichert, ACC, Empire State Bldg., New York 1.)

6-7. Oklahoma Acad. of Science, annual, Enid. (J. T. Self, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman.)

7-8. American Acad. of Dental Medicine, New York, N.Y. (S. Ross, 136 E. 36th St., New York 16.)

8-11. American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, annual, Chicago, Ill. (F. J. Van Antwerpen, AIChE, 25 W. 45 St., New York 36.)

9-11. Fluorides Symp., Cincinnati, Ohio. (Secretary, Inst. of Industrial Health, Kettering Laboratory, Eden and Bethesda Aves., Cincinnati 19.)

9-13. Eastern Joint Computer Conf., Washington, D.C. (H. H. Goode, Dept. of Electrical Engr., Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

9-22. Southeast Asia Soil Science Conf., 1st, Manila, Philippines. (I. G. Valencia, Bureau of Soils, P.O. Box 1848, Manila.)

10-11. Water Quality Control for Sub-surface Injection, 2nd annual conf., Norman, Okla. (M. L. Powers, Extension Div., Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman.)

13-14. Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, 37th annual, New York, N.Y. (R. J. Masselink, 700 W. 168 St., New York 32.)

15-18. American Soc. of Agricultural Engineers, Chicago, Ill. (J. L. Butt, ASAE, St. Joseph, Mich.)

17-19. Nuclear Sizes and Density Distributions Conference, Stanford, Calif. (R. Hofstadter, Stanford Univ., Stanford, Calif.)

19-21. American Physical Soc., Stanford, Calif. (W. A. Nierenberg, Univ. of California, Berkeley 4.)

26-27. Northwest Scientific Assoc., annual, Spokane, Wash. (W. B. Merriam, Geography Dept., State College of Washington, Pullman.)

26-30. American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, annual, Indianapolis, Ind. (R. L. Taylor, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5.)

The following 43 meetings are being held in conjunction with the AAAS annual meeting.

AAAS Acad. Conference, annual (Father P. H. Yancey, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala.). 28 Dec.

AAAS Cooperative Committee on the Teaching of Science and Mathematics (F. B. Dutton, Dept. of Chemistry, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing). 27 Dec.

Alpha Chi Sigma (R. L. Hicks, 1130 E. Jefferson St., Franklin, Ind.).

Alpha Epsilon Delta (M. L. Moore, 7 Brookside Circle, Bronxville, N.Y.). 28 Dec.

American Assoc. of Hospital Consultants (J. B. Norman, 8 South Church St., Greenville, S.C.).

American Astronomical Soc. (J. A. Hynek, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, 60 Garden St., Cambridge 38, Mass.). 27-30 Dec.

American Geophysical Union (E. M. Brooks, Dept. of Geophysics, St. Louis Univ., St. Louis 8, Mo.).

American Medical Assoc. Committee on Cosmetics (Mrs. V. L. Conley, AMA, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.). 28-29 Dec.

American Meteorological Soc. (K. C. Spengler, AMS, 3 Joy St., Boston, Mass.).

American Nature Study Soc., annual (R. L. Weaver, School of Natural Resources, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor). 26-30 Dec.

American Physiological Soc. (F. A. Hitchcock, Dept. of Physiology, Ohio State Univ., Columbus 10.)

American Psychiatric Assoc. (M. Greenblatt, Massachusetts Mental Health Center, 74 Fenwood Rd., Boston 15). 29-30 Dec.

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American Soc. of Hospital Pharmacists (G. E. Archambault, Pharmacy Branch, U.S. Public Health Service, Washington 25).

American Soc. of Naturalists (B. Wallace, Biological Lab., Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N.Y.).

American Statistical Assoc. (V. L. Anderson, Statistical Lab., Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind.).

Association of American Geographers (L. L. Ray, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington 25).

Association for Computing Machinery (J. E. Robertson, Digital Computer Lab., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana).

Astronomical League (W. Garnatz 2506 South East St., Indianapolis).

Beta Beta Beta (Mrs. F. G. Brooks, P.O. Box 336, Madison Sq. Station, New York 10). 27 Dec.

Biometric Soc., ENAR (T. A. Bancroft, Dept. of Statistics, Iowa State College, Ames).

Conference on Scientific Editorial Problems, annual (G. L. Seielstad, Applied Physics Lab., Johns Hopkins Univ., Silver Spring, Md.). 26-30 Dec.

Conference on Scientific Manpower, annual (T. J. Mills, National Science Foundation, Washington 25). 30 Dec.

Ecological Soc. of America (A. A. Lindsey, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind.). 27-29 Dec.

Metric Assoc. (J. T. Johnson, 694 West 11 St., Claremont, Calif.).

National Acad. of Economics and Political Science (D. P. Ray, Hall of Government, George Washington Univ., Washington, D.C.).

National Assoc. of Biology Teachers, annual (Miss I. Hollenbeck, Southern Oregon College of Education, Ashland). 26-31 Dec.

National Assoc. for Research in Science Teaching (G. G. Mallinson, Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo). 26-30 Dec.

National Assoc. of Science Writers (J. Troan, *Pittsburgh Press*, Pittsburgh, Pa.).

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (P. Peak, College of Education, Indiana Univ., Bloomington). 27 Dec.

National Geographic Soc. (W. R. Gray, NCS, 16th and M Sts., NW, Washington 6). 29 Dec.

National Science Teachers Assoc. (R. W. Schulz, Emmerich Manual Training High School, 2405 Madison Ave., Indianapolis 25). 26-30 Dec.

National Speleological Soc. (Brother G. Nicholas, LaSalle College, 20th and Olney Aves., Philadelphia 41, Pa.) 28 Dec.

Philosophy of Science Assoc. (C. W. Churchman, Case Inst. of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio).

Scientific Research Soc. of America, annual (D. B. Prentice, 56 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven 11, Conn.). 27 Dec.

Sigma Delta Epsilon, annual (Miss M. Chalmers, Dept. of Chemistry, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind.). 26-30 Dec.

Sigma Pi Sigma (M. W. White, Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park). 27 Dec.

Society for the Advancement of Criminology (D. E. J. MacNamara, New York Inst. of Criminology, 40 E. 40 St., New York 16). 27-28 Dec.

Society for General Systems Research, annual (R. L. Meier, Mental Health Research Inst., Ann Arbor, Mich.).

Society for Industrial Microbiology, Washington Section (W. N. Ezekiel, Bureau of Mines, Washington 25).

Society for Investigative Dermatology (H. Beerman, Univ. of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia 3), 28-29 Dec.

Society of the Sigma Xi, annual (T. T. Holme, 56 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven 11, Conn.). 27 Dec.

Society of Systematic Zoology, annual (R. E. Blackwelder, Box 500, Victor, N.Y.). 26-31 Dec.

United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, annual address (C. Billman, 1811 Q St., NW, Washington, D.C.). 27 Dec.

27. Association for Symbolic Logic., Cambridge, Mass. (J. Barlaz, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J.)

27-28. Linguistic Soc. of America, Chicago, Ill. (A. A. Hill, Box 7790, University Station, Austin 12, Tex.)

27-30. American Finance Assoc., annual, Philadelphia, Pa. (G. E. Hassett, Jr., New York Univ., 90 Trinity Pl., New York 6.)

28-29. American Folklore Soc., annual, Chicago, Ill. (M. Leach, Box 5, Bennett Hall, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Phila. 4, Pa.)

28-30. American Anthropological Assoc., annual, Chicago, Ill. (W. S. Godfrey, Jr., Logan Museum, Beloit College, Beloit, Wis.)

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