

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Science serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

Editorial Board

1969

EMIL HAURY	KENNETH S. PITZER
WILLARD F. LIBBY	ALEXANDER RICH
EVERETT I. MENDELSON	CLARENCE M. ZENER
JOHN R. PIERCE	

1970

GUSTAF O. ARRHENIUS	RICHARD C. LEWONTIN
FRED R. EGGAN	ALFRED O. C. NIER
HARRY F. HARLOW	FRANK W. PUTNAM
MILTON HARRIS	

Editorial Staff

Editor

PHILIP H. ABELSON

Publisher

DAEL WOLFLE

Business Manager

HANS NUSSBAUM

Managing Editor: ROBERT V. ORMES

Assistant Editors: ELLEN E. MURPHY, JOHN E. RINGLE

Assistant to the Editor: NANCY TEIMOURIAN

News Editor: JOHN WALSH

Foreign Editor: DANIEL S. GREENBERG*

News and Comment: LUTHER J. CARTER, BRYCE NELSON, PHILIP M. BOFFEY, MARK W. OBERLE, MARTI MUELLER, SCHERRAINE MACK

Book Reviews: SYLVIA EBERHART

Editorial Assistants: JOANNE BELK, ISABELLA BOULDIN, ELEANORE BUTZ, HELEN CARTER, GRAYCE FINGER, NANCY HAMILTON, OLIVER HEATWOLE, ANNE HOLDSWORTH, PAULA LECKY, KATHERINE LIVINGSTON, VIRGINIA NUSSLE, SANDRA RATTLE, PATRICIA ROWE, LEAH RYAN, LOIS SCHMITT, BARBARA SHEFFER, RICHARD SOMMER, YA LI SWIGART, ALICE THEILE

* European Office: 22 Mulberry Walk, London, S.W. 3, England (Telephone: 352-9749)

Advertising Staff

Director

EARL J. SCHERAGO

Production Manager

KAY GOLDSTEIN

Advertising Sales Manager: RICHARD L. CHARLES

Sales: NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036: Robert S. Bugbee, 11 W. 42 St. (212-PE-6-1858); SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J. 07076: C. Richard Callis, 12 Unami Lane (201-889-4873); MEDFIELD, MASS. 02052: Richard M. Ezequille, 4 Rolling Lane (617-444-1439); CHICAGO, ILL. 60611: Herbert L. Burklund, Room 2107, 919 N. Michigan Ave. (312-DE-7-4973); BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. 90211: Winn Nance, 111 N. La Cienega Blvd. (213-657-2772).

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE: 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: 202-387-7171. Cable: Advancesci, Washington. Copies of "Instructions for Contributors" can be obtained from the editorial office. See also page 7, *Science*, 4 July 1969. ADVERTISING CORRESPONDENCE: Rm. 1740, 11 W. 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10036. Phone: 212-PE-6-1858.

Microcosms in a World Apart

Our cities are sick, and their condition grows worse. Morale has deteriorated under the impact of lawlessness, pollution, and the ugliness of the environment. Obsolete, the cities are fashioned in accord with the realities of a century ago. The long-range solution is to build cities of radically new design. However, that is a task of a generation or more, and the crisis is now. We must look for measures that can be implemented quickly. In this search we can learn from the examples of other peoples who have also faced overcrowding.

The visitor to European cities sees much that could with advantage be adapted here. Consider, for example, the Tivoli in downtown Copenhagen. In a parklike area of moderate size are ponds and waterfowl, together with music, theater, dining, dancing, and amusement concessions. The Tivoli is fenced in, and there is a nominal admission charge. With security, the solid citizens of Copenhagen can relax and enjoy their holiday outings.

Another such area, perhaps even more desirable, is the Palmengarten in Frankfurt. Located near the middle of the city, it features botanical displays of extraordinary variety and beauty. The park is small by American standards. Yet skilled landscaping makes it seem larger than it is. Inside its boundaries one has the impression of being in a world apart. There are ponds, wooded paths, grassy glades, and flower gardens—a delightful spot for a stroll or relaxation in the sunshine. Moreover, there are microcosms within the world apart. In one small greenhouse is a marvelous collection of orchids. Near it is another building housing a great variety of cactuses. Yet another greenhouse contains huge tropical pond lilies. In a larger glassed-in space are luxuriant palm trees; at one end of the big room there is a waterfall with a fish pond beneath it. The enveloping greenery and the sounds of falling water combine most agreeably to lift the spirit.

In Europe, beauty is not confined to a few parks. At the typical crossroads, instead of billboards there are carefully tended flower gardens. Indeed, there are flowers almost everywhere, even at the airports.

The traveler returning from Europe is greeted with brutal ugliness. What a miserable welcome! Yet it is a fair sample of what he is likely to see in most cities. Pitifully little thought and energy have been devoted to bringing beauty to urban centers. Yet the opportunity is often available. Consider the Mall associated with Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Its area is comparable to that of two European parks, and it occupies some very expensive real estate. The Mall has a static vista, fountains, and some benches frequented principally by derelicts. For refreshment one may buy pretzels from street vendors. In contrast, one of the most attractive features of the Society Hill section of Philadelphia is a tiny 18th-century garden located a few hundred meters from Independence Hall. This plot, tended by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, is frequently replanted, so that every few weeks it provides a different display. Though small, the garden is excellent in the quality and variety of its planting, and it pleases many passersby.

This country has park facilities whose value as real estate totals multibillions of dollars. We are not getting our money's worth, and it is time that constructive thought and effort were devoted to making it possible for the majority of our citizens to enjoy what could be achieved in the way of spirit-building recreational facilities.—PHILIP H. ABELSON