

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1921

A NEW AGENCY FOR THE POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE

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In a democracy like ours it is particularly important that the people as a whole should so far as possible understand the aims and achievements of modern science, not only because of the value of such knowledge to themselves but because research directly or indirectly depends upon popular appreciation of its methods. In fact the success of democratic government as well as the prosperity of the individual may be said to depend upon the ability of the people to distinguish between real science and fake, between the genuine expert and the pretender.

The education of children in schools and of a few in colleges is not sufficient for this. It must be carried into maturity through such channels as the newspapers and the motion pictures. Unfortunately the rapid advance and increasing complexity of modern science has made it difficult for the general reader to follow its course and he has often given up the attempt in despair. Consequently we find the reading public divided into two classes as may be discerned in any public reading room; a minority that habitually read the scientific journals and a majority that never touch even the most popular of them.

In the effort to bridge this gap and to aid in the dissemination of scientific information, a new institution, the Science Service, has been established at Washington. It is chartered as a non-profit-making corporation and all receipts from the sale of articles, books or films will be devoted to the development of new methods of popular education in science. The governing board of fifteen trustees consists of ten scientists and five journalists.

The charter is a wide one, authorizing Science Service to publish books and magazines, to conduct conferences and lecture