

hydrolysis of proteins. It is to be expected, therefore, that d-amino acid oxidase will liberate small amounts of nitrogen from both normal and malignant tissues after such hydrolysis. If the amount of nitrogen liberated from these amino acids is of the same order of magnitude as that preexisting in the partly racemized glutamic acid reported by Kögl and others³ to exist in malignant tissue proteins, then the d-amino acid oxidase method would seem to be unsuitable for the detection of such glutamic acid. Suppose, as an example, that 100 g of malignant tissue protein is assumed to have a nitrogen content of 15 g. If it is assumed that 5 g of glutamic acid are present in the hydrolysate of this protein, the glutamic acid nitrogen present will be 0.476 g. Even if this glutamic acid is completely racemized, the amount of d(-)glutamic acid present will be only 0.238 g, or 1.6 per cent. of the total protein nitrogen. This is of the same order of magnitude as the percentages of nitrogen liberated from normal and malignant tissues by d-amino acid oxidase; indeed, the nitrogen liberated from a carcinoma of the breast was found to be 3.7 per cent.

(2) In view of the recent report of Kögl, Erxleben, and Akkerman,⁴ there seems to be little doubt that d(-)glutamic acid actually exists in acid hydrolysates of malignant tissue proteins. These authors have isolated, by two different methods, chemically pure d(-)glutamic acid from such hydrolysates.

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THE PEACE RESOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

IMMEDIATELY after the outbreak of the European war in September, 1939, the members of the American Association of Scientific Workers attempted to crystallize their attitudes toward the conflict. This was done by discussions at membership meetings of the various branches, by communication between the branches and in discussion at two national committee meetings. From these discussions there resulted the following statement, which represents the attitude of a large majority of the members of the association.

Science is creative, not wasteful or destructive. Yet the same scientific advances which have contributed so immensely to the well-being of humanity are made to serve also in increasing the horrors of war. The present con-

flict in Europe focuses attention on this perversion of science.

The futility of war is especially clear to scientists, for war, as a method of solving human problems, is out of harmony with the rational spirit and objective methods of science. Wherever objective analysis is permitted, the great advantages of peaceful procedure in the adjustment of conflict become obvious. Scientists deplore the fact that the fruits of their efforts are exploited for the ends of death and destruction and look to the future when science will be employed only in the one struggle worthy of it—in man's never-ending contest with nature.

Scientists know that democracy and freedom of thought, which are precious to us both as citizens and as men of science, are endangered in the emotional turmoil which accompanies war. The continuance of progress now largely depends upon the scientists of the neutral nations. American scientists can best fulfill their share of this responsibility if the United States remains at peace.

We, the undersigned workers in science (including members of the American Association of Scientific Workers and other American scientists), therefore recommend to our fellow-citizens the wholehearted and unceasing support of all reasonable programs which seek a better understanding of the causes of war, and which will preserve peace for the United States and bring peace to the world.

This statement, accompanied by a letter of explanation from Professor Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, chairman of the Mid-west Branch, is being mailed to many non-member scientists asking for their approval. When the signatures have been collected, it is planned to present the statement and the signatures to the President of the United States. Professor Compton's letter reads in part as follows:

May I ask your attention to the enclosed *Peace Resolution* adopted by the American Association of Scientific Workers, and if you approve it, please sign the resolution and return it. . . .

It is our desire to bring this resolution to the attention of the American public as expressing the earnest concern of American men of science in the maintenance of peace. The more nearly unanimous the responses to this request become, the more truly can we consider that this resolution represents the attitude of American scientists. . . .

Because of limited funds it has been impossible for the AASW to reach more than a small cross-section of the large numbers of American scientists. Others who approve the statement can signify their approval by writing Professor Compton.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

THE STONE AGE OF MOUNT CARMEL
The Stone Age of Mount Carmel. Vol. II. By
THEODORE D. McCOWN and SIR ARTHUR KEITH.

³ See bibliography given in the paper of Lipmann *et al.*

390 pp., 88 tables, 247 illustrations, 28 plates. Appendix, bibliography and index. Oxford University Press, 1939. \$20.00.

⁴ *Z. physiol. Chem.*, 261: 141, 1939.