

Prof. R.M. Yerkes/Cambridge,

as the "Spiritual" which must never be lost sight of in any attempted understanding and solution of social problems. There is something that differentiates man from the ape, something which is different in kind and not merely in degree; man possesses all that the ape possesses, but he possesses also a plus. Scientific investigation, in almost every field, has been ignoring the plus, because it defies material analysis. Knowing the place you have accorded ideals in your scheme of things, I feel that there is little danger of instinct being the final word with you. As a social study, your plan, to my mind, would have less significance and value than a study of conduct based upon ideals; this perhaps because the tendency of our thought for a century or more has been to emphasize the material and ignore the spiritual, and all effort in the former direction which is not counter-balanced by equal effort in the latter, is causing the scales to remain ill-adjusted. What it seems to me this age needs above all else is to get beyond the epoch of research, to the epoch of reflection, beyond the search after knowledge, to the search after the perfect life. We may come to see that what we need is not a larger laboratory but a more subtle instrument, and that the latter is not to be obtained but attained (if I may play to that extent with words). I am persuaded that there is something in revelation that our scientific methods and processes have been ignoring or excluding, and which makes the word of many a virtuous though ignorant peasant more authoritative than the findings of scholars. I am giving you the reaction you asked for - you see the line upon which it runs - I do hope that the psychologists in particular, are going to stand, at least, midway between the biologists and those who proclaim the life of the spirit as the only reality, and whilst planning for a study of monkeys and apes will also draw