

THE SCIENTIST - POLITICIAN

Everything we use today, from our drinking water to hair spray to postage stamps, is useful only as an application of some scientific principle discovered and developed by the analytical and inductive thinking of men we classify as "Scientists" (Latin: knowledge seekers).

In general we think of scientific advances as being good. (Good is the human being's expression for anything that sustains or prolongs the existence of the human race, or more specifically that which is in his own interest). Pasteurization, gasoline, ski-lifts and birth control are examples of good scientific developments.

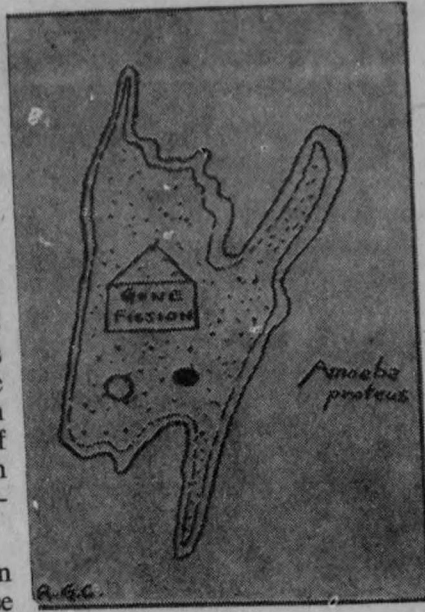
However, along with the beneficial developments made by men applying scientific discoveries, there comes the inevitable advances detrimental to humans. In most cases these are misuses of devices intended to be helpful to mankind, for example drugs, fire, dynamite and nuclear energy. Three of these were applied to military purposes. Drugs were and are medically useful, but their misuse has proved to be against the interest of humanity. The misuse of nuclear energy

may yet be the cause of the eradication of the human race.

We can see that science very easily can be extremely bad; and yet without any scientific accomplishments man would certainly have long been extinct, and therefore only praise can be given to the scientists. It is in the hands of the militant politicians, the war-mongers, where we go from here. With the discovery of something new there is always an investigation into the military applications of that discovery.

These people refuse to listen to reason, for their sole purpose if obscured by their craving for power, is to go to war with some "enemy hated with an insane passion. The militant politicians divide the world into its little nationalistic states, while the scientists strive frustratingly for international unity in science. Unfortunately the politicians have more power over the opinions of the masses.

What the world needs is the next thing better than Plato's philosopher king, the scientist politician, who eventually will unite with all the other scientist politicians into a truly unified world.



The Leading Light

*Oh how boring it must be,
To live a life of Chemistry,
Ignorant happy little fools,
Slowly counting molecules.
Mixing witty pink solutions,
But ever finding no conclusion.
Joining atoms with glue and tools,
To make some giant molecule,
Licking, gluing gum backed labels,
To fill the blanks in periodic tables.*

*Physics is a dismal art,
They want to blow the world apart.
Talked in labs and cubby holes,
Like the rats in musty holes.
Calculating with pain and care,
Their + and minus of every error.
Straining brains or vector forces,
Quietly damning physic courses.
Pity their puny, poultry brains,
Slowly dissolving in Autumn rains.*

*Low behold we see a light,
Shining bright in the night,
Closer, closer, now we see,
T'is coming from Biology.
Leading surely chem and phys,
Through their self-made sea of . . .*

There is a story concerning a clergyman who, at dinner had to listen to a talkative young man who had much to say on Darwin. I can't see, bawled the youth, what difference it would make to me if my grandfather was an ape. No, skirmished the clergyman, I can't see that it would. But it must have made a great difference to your grandmother.

Bugs 'n' Beasts

The Biological Society was formed a number of years ago for the purpose of bringing together students interested in biology and desiring to do further work on their own. Our meetings, which are held every three weeks, may consist of movies, panel discussions, or lectures by guest speakers, all of which are of a biological nature. Members are encouraged to set up projects of their own, in the past these have included maintenance of a marine aquarium and work with reptiles. Field trips are held throughout the year to the fundy coast and other areas.

As a fall project, the Biological Society has invited the Bio-Med. club from the University of Mt. Allison, to attend the Science Open House on Nov. 9 with participation in a field trip on Nov. 10. Exchange trips are planned in the future.

Although the Biological Society has been in existence several years this is the first year we have applied for and received a grant from the S.R.C. This will enable the Society to extend its activities and, hopefully, expand its membership.

All our members are contributing their help to Science Open House and we hope that it will be a big success.

The Biological Society of U.N.B. extends an invitation to any student in any year or faculty interested in biology to attend our meetings.

VERY SHORT STORY

Once upon a time there was a scientist. He spent all his time hidden away in laboratories, studying Newton's laws, igneous rocks, washing test tubes and dissecting seaweed. He never saw anybody who was not a scientist, and gradually he began to talk in chemical symbols, mathematical formulae and generic names. Before too long he had completely forgotten his native tongue, which was English. Because he couldn't talk to outsiders, he withdrew more and more, and by the time he was a senior, he found that nobody knew him. So he decided to hold an Open House in the Science building, and he organized his friends, to make a real success of the venture. In the process he found to his surprise that it was fun doing other things, and even more surprising that he had time to do them. He started to do even more, always bearing in mind of course that his first love was the microscope and test tube. He discovered that other people were alive and he got to know some of them, and with a lot of hard practice he relearned English. This actually wasn't too bad, because someone pointed out that English was very like German, and as he was a good little scientist, he knew his German very well. It took a bit of doing, of course, for the complete metamorphosis, but the net effect was remarkable. The scientist had turned back into a human. The moral is—if you are a scientist, don't be completely one. There are too many other things in life that are worth doing also.

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