HUMAN ASPECTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

By DR. WILLIAM A. HAMOR
MELLON INSTITUTE, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Conspicuous throughout the world of to-day is the great diversity of science, which has been accomplished by the wide extension of the frontiers of knowledge of man and nature by the application of research. This research may be looked upon as the scientific quest for the possible. More precisely, it finds, observes, defines and applies positive facts by experimental methods and inductive logic. Research has characterized the life of the universities, which are primarily responsible for its existence. Having comprehended the spirit and power of research from the universities, the industries have used its methods in their own affairs with most beneficial results.

It seems that wherever research is alive it grows. The past thirty-five years have seen the number of industrial research laboratories in this country increase from a few to more than 3,000. But, without the evolution of scientific investigation in the universities, these industrial laboratories might never have been established. In addition to the very idea of research the universities have supplied the industries with men and women possessing knowledge not only of the underlying scientific facts and theories but of the methods and techniques of investigation. From the universities also has come much of the basic knowledge of science on which modern technology has been erected and will build in the future. The practical uses of science may be regarded as the dividends declared every once in a while by pure research and research education. When such research and education are hindered these dividends