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THE VALUE AND SERVICE OF ZOOLOGICAL SCIENCE

SPIRITUAL VALUES

The material values of science are often heralded, while its spiritual values pass unnoticed. Leaving all tangible values unemphasized, we shall here contend that the intangible values of science in general and of zoology in particular are the more significant. These we may characterize as "spiritual," using the term over against "material" and without further implication. Thus, if we speak of man's spiritual yearnings in contrast with his material needs, we may not have a clear idea of what this phrase implies, but we recognize in this contrast the existence of something the opposite of material. That which constitutes "the spirit of the man" is too illusive for definition, yet it is a thing we recognize as existent and in such a sense the word spiritual is used.

In the present world crisis there are none who decry the material values of science. Our very national existence depends upon them. But there are many who raise the question whether science on its spiritual side is not a failure, whether the war is not science gone mad; and we scientists need to consider what is the source of this undercurrent of criticism which sets against the freedom of science. In the eyes of the man in the street, science represents only material accomplishment and even among the educated such a belief is not uncommon. We men of science do not believe this. Why should others? Perhaps we are to blame.

1 Symposium before the American Society of Zoologists, Minneapolis, December 29, 1917.