PROBLEMS CONFRONTING MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS

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In relation to their special concerns men of science face problems of two sorts. First, there are the enticing direct questions, presented at the outer boundaries of existing knowledge, as to what may lie just beyond. Many investigators in astronomy and biology, for example, have had their imagination stirred by such questions. To satisfy their curiosity they have striven persistently for more facts. And the facts have led to understanding of the vastness of interstellar space and the immense duration of evolutionary processes. But these facts have had an impact on society which has led to profound changes in the outlook and judgment of all thoughtful people. The revolutionary social effects of advancing science raise the secondary, more indirect questions regarding the significance of scientific progress for humanity. Such questions, also, challenge scientific workers, as they challenge other intelligent members of the body politic.

In the present essay our attention will be directed in the main to the primary professional questions awaiting medical investigation. Before they are considered, however, it may be well to note that the social effects of progress in medical knowledge appear to
Editor's Summary

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