AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE

By Dr. E. C. AUCHTER

Research Administrator, U. S. Department of Agriculture

I am going to talk to-day not as a citizen of one country addressing the citizens of other countries, but rather as one scientist talking to other scientists. The concepts and methods of science, including our own agricultural sciences, are still international; they cut deep under the conflict that has now spread over the world. And the faith of science is international; it is that the truth, which science is forever seeking, must ultimately prevail. If it does not prevail now, it is partly because we do not yet know enough of the truth and not enough people are convinced, or even aware, of that which we do know. Meanwhile the scattered fragments of truth that science has discovered can be perverted, and are perverted, to cruel and brutal ends—as when modern technology, a clean-cut product of science, is used to bring whole peoples under the domination of a small group of power-hungry men and to destroy millions of human beings.

But I think there is not a scientist in this audience who would not agree that this is a perversion, and who does not feel horror and shame, deep down in his being, that science is so perverted. It is not what we, as agricultural scientists, want. We want to do everything we can to prevent this kind of perversion in the future. We want science to be used to serve the welfare of the people of the world. We know that it is a

1 Address given at the Second Inter-American Conference of Agriculture, Mexico City, July 6, 1942.