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Agriculture, Science and the People’s Welfare: Dr. E. C. AUCHTER .......................................................... 283

Scientific Events:

Recent Deaths; The Aid of Science in Production in Great Britain; The Secretary of the Zoological Society of London; Medical Aid to China; Graduate Course on Industrial Health and Medicine in War Time at Yale University; Registration in the National Roster ........................................ 289

Scientific Notes and News ...................................................... 292

Discussion:

The New York Mathematics Tables Project: Professor Raymond Clare Archibald. Standardized Plant Names: P. L. Ricker. Students’ Lecture Notes: Dr. H. Necheles .................................................. 294

Scientific Books:

Recent Medical Biographies and Autobiographies: Dr. Chauncey D. Leake ...................................................... 297

Special Articles:

Heparin and the Antithrombic Activity of Plasma: Dr. H. P. Smith and Others. The Ultraviolet Spectrographic Examination of the Fat Fraction of Mouse Milk and Mammary Glands: K. B. De-

OME, Dr. L. A. STRAIT and E. L. McCawley. The Isolation of a New Oxidation-Reduction Enzyme from Lemon Peel: Cecil Z. WAWSA and Dr. J. LEYDEN WEBB ..................................................... 300

Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:

An Apparatus for Continuous Filtration in Blood and Plasma Transfusions: Heinz Siedentopp and Dr. Milton Levine. Bivalent Typhus Vaccine of High Immunizing Value: Dr. M. Ruiz Castaneda 303

Science News ........................................................................... 8

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Annual Subscription, $6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

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.