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THE CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONALISM¹

By Professor E. B. KRUMBHAAR

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To all men of good-will, the thought of peace on earth must occur, and to many through the centuries it has been a compelling preoccupation. At no time in the world's history can it have presented itself more forcibly than now when the war in Europe is in its final stage, and arrangements for an adequate peace settlement have become imminent. As an important part of the historian's task is to illuminate the present by explaining the past, it is both fitting and highly desirable to consider here the pertinent events of the past that bear on this most important question of a better world order, and thus aid, no matter how slightly, toward a better comprehension and solution of the problems involved.

In 1933 this section held a Symposium on Nationalism²; I feel that it is significant that to-day it seems

¹Vice-presidential address, Section L—History and Philosophy of Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Cleveland, Ohio, September 12, 1944.

²W. G. Leland, "Nationalism," Papers presented at the 1933 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

desirable to contemplate the concept of internationalism. As your chairman, charged with the responsibility of addressing the section, I have ventured to go out of my own field to consider the subject—not claiming any special knowledge and even admitting to the scholar's sin of utilizing some secondary sources, but with an amateur's enthusiasm and a lively sense of the importance of an informed public's opinion, especially while the course of legislative and administrative action is being shaped. I was further spurred to learn what I could from a considerable "literature" on the subject, in spare moments spread over several months, by the recent appearance of Hans Kohn's book on "The Idea of Nationalism."³ My surprise at his view that the idea of "nationalism" only began with the French Revolution was equalled by the discovery that a real concept of internationalism had cropped up not infrequently since the ancient Greeks and Hebrews, even though the word did not appear in dictionaries

³Hans Kohn, "The Idea of Nationalism," New York: Macmillan, 1944.

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