

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1917

FOOD VALUES¹

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SUSPICION often attaches the value of the recommendations of the laboratory experimentalist and this reaction may be more or less well founded. In a delightful address to medical students Simon Flexner recently warned his audience not to think of coming to him for medical treatment. A general of the United States Army told me only yesterday that a professor might be able to hold his students to a complete examination upon the subject of the Thirty Years' War, mark each student in accordance with his deserts, and yet the professor might be of the type who would get lost in his own back yard. Such a danger besets the path of him who would speak upon the subject assigned to me to-night. It appears, however, that scientific knowledge of nutrition has sufficiently advanced to make it of some practical service to the people. Dr. Mendel and I would not be speaking together here to-night did we not feel that we had messages to deliver, and yet it must be evident that in this country such messages are merely personal opinions susceptible to challenge and that they carry little weight with the community.

Many are familiar with the report of the Eltzbacher Commission which concerned itself with the food situation in Germany at the outbreak of the war. The commission was intended to bridge the chasm between helpless specialization and superficial versatility. Fifteen of the foremost scientific men of the land approved the report. Mistakes were made, such as overestimates of

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