

# SCIENCE

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## SCIENCE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, AND THE BASIS OF COOPERATION<sup>1</sup>

By Dr. A. V. HILL, M.P.

FOULERTON RESEARCH PROFESSOR AND SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

I SHOULD be the last to claim that we scientific men, as a class, are less liable to prejudice on grounds of self-interest, race, politics or religion than other educated people; and we should deceive ourselves, and perhaps some uncritical members of the public, if we were to assume (as some of us seem to do) that scientific eminence, or the scientific habit of mind, as such, or even scientific notoriety, give any special virtue to our opinions on more ordinary topics. It is, nevertheless, a fact that the nature of our occupation makes scientific men particularly international in their outlook. In its judgments on facts science claims to be independent of political opinion, of nationality, of material

profit. It believes that nature will give a single answer to any question properly framed, and that only one picture can ultimately be put together from the very complex jigsaw puzzle which the world presents. Individual and national bias, fashion, material advantage, a temporary emergency, may determine which part of the puzzle at any moment is subject to the greatest activity. For its final judgments, however, for its estimates of scientific validity, there is a single court of appeal in nature itself, and nobody disputes its jurisdiction. Those who talk, for example, of Aryan and non-Aryan physics or of proletarian and capitalist genetics, as though they were different, simply make themselves ridiculous. For such reasons the community of scientific people throughout the world is convinced of the necessity of international collaboration;

<sup>1</sup> Read at the Annual General Meeting of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee held in the House of Commons.

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