

bringing the practical solution of our question.

The institutes of our university have funds that would be sufficient if the value of the dollar were of 5 lei, as it was before the war, and not 90-100 lei as it is now. The credits assigned to our laboratories, even augmented, can not meet at the same time the general rise in price of scientific materials and the disadvantageous exchange of our money.

The solution of this great difficulty might be found, I think, in the organization of a credit with a fixed term of payment in 3 or 4 years. Such credits were organized during the war for the supply of engines of destruction; why should it be impossible to organize them in a time of peace in order to facilitate scientific cooperation and for the benefits of science?

I think that this organization might be created. Under the auspices of an American scientific association a number of booksellers and instrument makers might be grouped, forming a society which would divide among them the orders of our institutions centralized by the chancellor of the university.

The total sum forming the price of the objects, guaranteed by the university, would be divided into two fractions: one part payable immediately and another credited for 3 or 4 years, with a fixed annual interest. Our universities are state institutions and offer every guaranty of solvency.

I beg again the friends of science and of international cooperation to be willing to examine the question also from this point of view and seek the solution of the organization of this credit. Our university is ready to make every sacrifice in its power in order to secure practically and permanently the cooperation of American science.

E. G. RACOVITZA

INSTITUTE OF SPEOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ,
ROUMANIA

AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES

IN SCIENCE, Volume 53, page 335, April 8, 1921, Professor Racovitza, of the University

of Cluj, Roumania, points out that his university is practically barred from access to the American scientific literature and scientific instruments by the present state of foreign exchange. He points out that SCIENCE, which before the war cost thirty-five Roumanian lei, now costs five hundred and ninety-five lei.

The Biological Club of the University of Minnesota believe that such a situation should not exist and that American scientific literature should be widely disseminated in Europe. Obviously, however, the University of Cluj can not purchase many American journals at such a rate of exchange. Accordingly the secretary of the Biological Club was authorized to write Professor Racovitza and ask him for a list of journals which he would prefer to have in their library. In a letter under date of July 16, he submits the following list in order of his preference: (1) *The American Naturalist*, (2) *Ecology*, (3) *Genetics*, (4) *Journal of General Physiology* (Loeb), (5) *Journal of Morphology*, and (6) *Journal of Experimental Zoology*.

The Biological Club is accordingly asking the publishers of *The American Naturalist* to send that journal to the library of the Institutul De Speologie, Universitatea Din Cluj, and bill the subscription price to the Club until further orders.

We are publishing this note in SCIENCE in the hope that similar scientific organizations will take like action. In case such action is taken by any organization it is suggested that it might be advisable in order to avoid sending duplicate journals to their library that a central clearing house of some sort should be established. If this seems best the undersigned would be glad to serve in this way.

H. D. BARKER,

Secretary of the Biological Club

THE TRUTH ABOUT VIVISECTION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the *Womans Home Companion* for July, 1921, is the best paper on this subject I have ever seen called "The Truth about Vivisection" by Mr. Ernest Harold Baynes. Mr. Baynes first read

the literature on both sides and then visited practically all the laboratories from the Mayos' at Rochester, Minnesota, to the eastern seaboard. He visited especially the Rockefeller Institute several times, also a number of European laboratories. He became thoroughly convinced (1) that the experiments were not cruel, (2) that the statements in the literature of the antivivisectionists were often garbled and utterly misleading, and (3) that the results to animals themselves as well as to human beings were of enormous benefit. Then he wrote the article, and Miss Lane, the editor of the *Companion*, bravely printed it.

The especial significance of *his* writing such an article lies in his nation-wide reputation as a lover of animals and their protector. He is the father of all the bird-refuges in the United States. His lectures on animals have been heard everywhere, and when *he* approves of experiments on animals every one knows that he has good reasons for so doing.

The fury of the antivivisectionists at once rose to fever heat. The New York Antivivisection Society through its president, Mrs. Belais, sent out an extraordinary appeal calling him "one Ernest Harold Baynes"—almost as if one should write "one Herbert Hoover"! In a paragraph all in capitals Mrs. Belais called on all lovers of animals to help crush Miss Lane financially not only by cancelling their own subscriptions but by urging all their friends to do the same—a nation-wide boycott. This extraordinary method will ensure a reaction in favor of Miss Lane because of its vindictive unfairness. It is not argument, it is persecution and is also illegal.

It behooves the friend of scientific research and *real* lovers of animals to support Miss Lane by expressing to her by mail their admiration of her courage, and by adding their own names to the list of her subscribers. Her address is 381 4th Ave., New York, and the cost of a year's subscription is only two dollars. She has received hundreds of letters from the A-Vs—many abusive. The November and succeeding issues will contain some interesting reading.

Mr. Baynes has also been attacked by mail and by cancellation of engagements. It is up to us to sustain so doughty a champion. He has given the antivivisectionists the hardest blow I have known in 40 years.

W. W. KEEN

QUOTATIONS

CHEMISTRY AND THE PUBLIC

It is fitting that 3,000 British, Canadian, and American chemists should be sitting together at Columbia University, for they have been acting together for seven years. The chief feature of American chemical history after 1914 was the remarkable cooperation of American and Allied—especially British—chemists upon problems pertaining to munitions and other war essentials. They found themselves faced by a Germany which had built up its chemical industries by decades of shrewd effort. As Mr. Garvan said on Wednesday, the Germans had taken the discoveries of the British chemist Perkin—the Perkin Medal is one of our most prized scientific awards—and had made it the basis for a chemical technology unapproached elsewhere. Happily, we were able to build up some branches of industrial, agricultural, and electrical chemistry with a speed that surprised those who were unacquainted with our resourcefulness and our skill in research. By the end of 1915 the United States had the largest aniline plant in the world and was credited with nitric acid and nitro-cellulose plants three times greater than any others.

Not since Syracuse waited for the inventions of Archimedes to beat off the Romans has attention been concentrated upon science in war-time as Americans concentrated it upon chemistry after 1917. We had been shocked into a realization that we had depended upon Germany for medicines and dyes; that we had developed no independent potash resources; that we had done little with our Louisiana sulphur; that we had looked to Chile for nitrates which we should have manufactured in part for ourselves, and that we had wasted the precious by-products we might