

millions are ill-nourished? Why is cotton ploughed into the soil when millions are ill-clad? There are those who blame the discoveries of modern science for this trouble, the means of production have vastly increased while distribution has lagged behind. The problem would seem indeed to be largely a question of time-lag. Part of the world is living mentally in the age of the bullock cart, part in the age of the aeroplane. Thus the financial world is still largely governed by the ideas of a pre-scientific era and is therefore ignorant of the implications of modern science. The scientific worker, on the other hand, is little concerned with the world of finance and the possible results of his own discoveries, in relation to the public welfare.

It is satisfactory, therefore, to note that at last the scientific world is waking up to the need for the realisation by scientific workers of their responsibility for the wider aspects of human welfare, lest science itself shall come under condemnation. A recent letter of protest against the misuse of scientific discovery has appeared in the press bearing the signature of the President of the Royal Society and a number of other distinguished names. Sir Richard Gregory speaking recently at a Rotary luncheon at Norwich made an eloquent plea for the right use of the gifts of science, and looked for the time when science would no longer be thought of as a destroying angel but as the herald of a more abundant life.

Following a recent discussion at Oxford on "Academic Freedom", reported in the August number of the *Journal of the Institute of Chemistry*, a resolution was passed to set up a Committee with the object of seeing that so far as possible science should be used only for the benefit of humanity. Of even greater significance than protest and eloquence is the fact that a representative body of engineers and scientific workers

of the British Science Guild have formed themselves into a group to study the problems of modern economics and these studies have resulted in the publication of a highly valuable document entitled "First Interim Report on Schemes and Proposals for Economic and Social Reforms". No fewer than 24 proposals have been carefully studied and their essential features tabulated. Among these proposals may be specially mentioned:—

Sir Basil Blackett's "Planned Money",
Proposals of the Communist Party,
Conservative Party Proposals,
Douglas Social Credit Proposals,
The Proposals of Silvio Gesell ("Free Economy"),
The London Chamber of Commerce Proposals,
Professor Soddy's Proposals, and
The Proposals of the Continental Committee on Technocracy.

The British Science Guild have published other pamphlets of scientific and economic interest among which may be mentioned "The Electron Liberated: Its Industrial Consequences", by Clifford C. Paterson, O.B.E., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.E.E., and "Human Biology and Politics" by Professor J. B. S. Haldane, M.A., F.R.S.

This activity among scientific workers may help to lay a true foundation for a new world where every hungry mouth has enough to eat, every capable hand enough work, where exploitation in the name of business is unknown and where peace and sufficiency reign supreme.

The appeal made by Dr. Fowler in his recent paper entitled "Energy and Economics" which appeared as a supplement to the May number of *Current Science*, calling for greater attention on the part of scientific workers to the problems of modern economics, has our warm support, and we hope to return to the subject in a later issue.

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HIS Highness the Maharaja of Mysore was graciously pleased to confer the title of "Rajasabhabhushana" on Sir Venkataraman at the recent Dasara Durbar held in Mysore. We have great pleasure in congratulating Sir Venkataraman on the glittering decoration bestowed on him. Palace honours

are usually reserved for officers rendering distinguished service to the State, and the titles connote the merits and accomplishments of recipients. But in the case of Sir Venkataraman, all laurels become his brow. His Highness's generous act will be widely appreciated.