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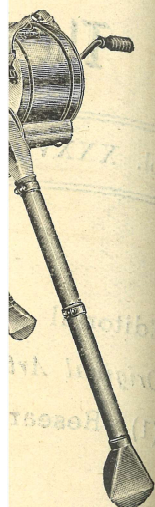
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Editorial

Training the Research Worker: The reorganisation of scientific research and university education in Independent India, on lines, which would enable her to keep pace with the rest of advanced countries in the world, in the matter of industrial and academic progress, is now engaging the attention of our statesmen and leading scientists. In the editorial columns of a recent issue of 'Nature' are discussed certain aspects relating to modern trends in organisation for scientific research, which are well worth a close study. "The division of the world into two sharply contrasted groups has repercussions in the field of science and of scientific research if no more than as affecting the ideas which men hold about the freedom of science". The progress in pursuit of knowledge is made rapidly and securely only when individuals are free to entertain any hypothesis, and when the survival of the hypothesis is determined solely by the rigour of test against cold facts, and not by any arbitrary ruling; and political dogma should never be allowed to dictate the teaching and practice of science". In selecting personnel for scientific research it is of utmost importance that the individuals chosen should have besides outstanding intellectual urge, of a personal nature, the ability to co-operate with colleagues of equal attainments and ambitions. As much of modern advanced research is team work carried out on a planned basis, the possibility should be avoided of an obdurate lone worker impeding the evolution of joint integrated programme of research by a group of men. The most important single attribute of a scientific staff should be the ability to perform as a group the function estimating and balancing integrating and interrelating. The importance of universities maintaining their independence is emphasised for the main source from which to draw the research workers for scientific development will be the universities. The academic values of passion for truth, thoroughness in pursuing it to its end, a delicate precision in analysis a judical temper a willingness to learn from all quarters



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and an uncompromising insistence on freedom of utterance, should be upheld as basic values in any university worth its name. Any teacher who tolerates intellectual dishonesty is out of place in an university. Over adulation of post graduate research results in the fresh student not educating himself. "A university needs to encourage and honour not only discoverers of facts but also explorers of ideas and appraisers of values. If it does this and can at the same time mark out those relatively few whose talents appear to fit them preeminently for a course of research it will have done more to meet the needs of Academic research, the Research Institutions and Industrial Departments than by fostering large schools of directed research. The post graduate side of a university should never degenerate into a research factory. The Universities should bear in mind that they have to justify the public expenditure on them by returning to the nation men and women of trained first class minds capable of filling responsibilities of leadership, of character, ability and high standards of technical skill.

Agricultural Research and Propaganda: Our readers have been presented with several views on this problem, dealing in detail on aspects of acquainting the cultivators with the progress in research. Almost all of them have struck the same path, and stress the use of films, radios, talks, lectures, songs, leaflets etc., while some of them have doubted the efficacy of district farms in this aspect. Mr. Naik, however strikes a different path. He argues that such methods of propaganda copied from other countries and transplanted into an Indian village at the present state of development does not bear fruit. He stresses that for the majority of the cultivators actual demonstration on the spot living the cultivators own life but at the same time demonstrating what could be done leaves a deeper impression. The Model state Farms as he calls them should be distributed through the entire province. In short the main theme of his argument is that example is better than precept.

Our Prime Minister: The Prime Minister of India has been sojourning in America and we learn with pride that he has been given a rousing reception. We earnestly hope and pray that the visit of the Prime Minister will mark a beginning of active co-operation of the eastern and western himspheres, for the welfare of the people of the world and ensuring its peace.