

were only the outcome of past research, and that owing to lack of equipment and buildings, etc., no serious work had been done during the last three years. It was not uncommon to meet a German professor without an Institute, or a professor who was unable to tell whether his University itself would continue.

On the other hand, new universities have been established, such as the one in Mainz in the French Zone. From information I heard about this new University, it appears that the French Military Government made strenuous efforts to provide all the scientific equipment necessary for teaching and research, and that the intellectual and cultural level was reputed to be exceptionally high. Unfortunately, however, the food situation in the French Zone provided even less calories than in any other zone.

In talks with many of the younger representatives at the Congress (Assistants and Privatdozents), I gained the impression that disgust for the past Nazi régime is very great, and that they are most eager to be allowed a share in international affairs and in scientific developments also. I outlined in a previous report (Exper. 3, 382 [1947]) that it is in the common European interest to admit German scientists again to international meetings. But no immediate general progress in international thought can be expected from Germany until the greater part of the people are again living above starvation level.

From the various clinical professors I heard of the appalling increase of tuberculosis amongst students; and the food served to them during lunch in one of their university feeding centres was of the most inferior quality, as well as being insufficient in quantity. I can only warn the supporters of those organizations which do a lot to help as regards welfare, etc., not to expect to find an early revival of the international spirit and outlook among the Germans as a result of their efforts. All the help so far provided by various international bodies is too small in comparison with the size of their task. I do not wish to belittle these efforts—on the contrary no praise can be too high for these truly humanitarian workers—but I want to try to prevent their becoming embittered and cynical like many of my Dutch and Norwegian friends who have told me that the children they fed and helped after the first world war were the invaders of their countries in the second world war.

There is no doubt that this work of feeding and caring for the bodily welfare of a defeated people is of the utmost importance, and it is only after a reasonable standard of living has been achieved that any set of moral values can be inculcated into such people.

If welfare workers can realize the vital importance of both these aspects in rebuilding the lives of a defeated people, there need be no sense of embitterment or frustration if they do not see the results of their work at once.

If the German problem is not solved on a European scale, no temporary relief will prevent the emergence of new national elements among students seeking revenge and national recovery even more violently than twenty years ago.

Why should this be so? not because the German mind is fundamentally more evil than that of other nations, but because Hitler's total war has brought upon Germany total misery, which can only be alleviated by a combined European and American effort of great magnitude.

An immediate and practical step which can be taken is the exchange of teachers and students, which is very important. Such an exchange has already been made between Oxford and Bonn. Oxford students took part

in an International Summer School in Bonn and have invited German students to come to this country. Books and journals are most urgently needed, and subscribers who no longer want their copies of such journals should forward them to a German university, where they will be most gratefully received.

International bodies meeting in the near future should seriously consider whether they should admit German scientists to their meetings. Germans cannot be permanently excluded, and the longer the period of exclusion, the greater will be the resentment, and the more difficult will be international understanding. A definite ruling on this problem should soon be made by those responsible for international meetings, and I would like to suggest to German societies, such as the former Anatomical Society, that they have their part to play too. I think that they should exclude members (as the former German Professor of Anatomy of Strasburg), who committed definite war crimes during the German occupation of France. I am sure that such a gesture and public dissociation from criminal members on the part of the German societies would facilitate reconciliation with the other nations.

In a recent talk with Professor M. KLEIN of the French University of Strasburg, I gained the impression that even university teachers who (like him) have suffered severely from the Nazi occupation (Buchenwald and Auschwitz) are not hostile towards German scientists as such, but are of course eager to see signs of discrimination coming from the Germans themselves, such as I have already suggested.

This article may possibly be considered to be too biased towards the German people; but only those who have seen conditions inside Germany for themselves will realize the magnitude of the task of rebuilding Germany so that it may eventually take its place in the European scene. This task is one which calls for international action on a humanitarian basis beyond the limits of national considerations.

On the other hand, the collaboration of Germany is essential to the success of any such scheme; but the Germans must not allow their common misery to blind them to the fact that crimes have been committed in their name, and that the time has now come to dissociate themselves from those responsible for these crimes, so that a new start may be made in the solving of their problems.

All those Germans who still claim to be unaware of such crimes and who might call the War Crimes Tribunal of Nuremberg "enemy propaganda" are asked to read E. WIECHERT's<sup>1</sup> personal description of his stay in Buchenwald, "The Forest of the Dead": the most factual account written so far by one of the best German writers.

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<sup>1</sup> Published by V. GOLLANZ (London, 1947).

### XIII<sup>e</sup> Congrès international de zoologie

Paris 1948

Le XIII<sup>e</sup> Congrès international de zoologie se tiendra à Paris en 1948, du mercredi 21 juillet au mardi 27 juillet.

Il sera présidé par M. CAULLERY, membre de l'Institut, président du comité permanent des Congrès de zoologie.

La correspondance doit être adressée au secrétaire général, M. FISCHER-PIETTE, professeur au Muséum, 55, rue de Buffon, Paris-V<sup>e</sup>, ou pour ce qui concerne les sections aux présidents de ces différentes sections.