
Letters

of using evidence in arriving at facts and of using facts. However, there is nothing mysterious or especially difficult about science or the scientific method. The methods of science are within the reach of all, and of course the scientists think that they have developed the best possible methods for determining facts and evaluating the evidence from which facts are derived. Perhaps all of us tend to use the scientific method to some extent in that we use a certain amount of evidence in arriving at our facts. However, the scientist is much more careful than the average layman in evaluating his evidence and arriving at his facts. Here, I think, is an opportunity for the lay citizen to profit a bit from the method of the scientist.

It might be helpful to illustrate by an example how a scientist works. It is to be taken for granted that he is seeking the answer to a question. Let us assume that the question is, "Can a chicken catch typhoid fever?" The scientist might proceed as follows: Define question—Make observations—Tentative answer or theory—Additional observations—Experimentation under controlled conditions—Statement of facts.

This is the way the scientist works in arriving at his facts and in making his decisions. However, it is not the method used in solving social and political problems. My point, I think, will be clear. We are out of balance not because of too much science, but because of too little science in certain areas of human affairs. We need to use more science in those processes pertaining to social and political development.

But I can hear you say that the scientific method, as I have outlined it, is too cumbersome and time consuming to be used in solving social and political problems. However, unemployment, poverty and war are even more cumbersome and costly, and there are many who think that these could be avoided to a very great extent if scientific methods were applied in the solution of our social and political problems. We can return to this point later. In the meantime, I should like to discuss technology just briefly.

Technology, often confused with science, is really the practical application of scientific knowledge. While science seeks only for the facts of nature, technology attempts by any device to obtain profit from scientific facts. It follows that technology may be completely unethical in its use of scientific facts, and, in such instances, may actually constitute a menace to social development. The use of science to produce instruments of war, insofar as aggression is concerned, is a case in point. Here, however, it is not science, but the misuse of science through technology that is the offender.

As Dr. Arthur N. Bragg has pointed out in his recent article entitled "Science, Practical and Impractical," when Anne Morrow Lindbergh blamed science for the present unbalanced condition of the world, she really should have blamed technology. Similarly, the English theologian who proposed a moratorium on science should have proposed a moratorium on technology, or at least a moratorium on non-ethical technology. Science itself is neither good nor bad, it simply is. Whether good or bad results are obtained from science and the scientific method depends entirely upon the people who use it. Specifically, it depends upon you and your kind.

I would not want to imply that all or even any large proportion of the technological pursuits are anti-social or in any way undesirable. Much good will come from technology, even from wartime technology. For instance, the technologist will continue to produce synthetic chemicals, such as the sulfa drugs, synthetic quinine and synthetic vitamins.

Science has demonstrated greater success in establishing general principles and using them to advantage than has any other field of human endeavor. Now, we must become involved in the enormously difficult task of developing fundamental principles, based upon scientific reasoning, under which the relationships of human beings may be brought into better order.

There are, of course, many matters associated with our everyday life that cannot be subjected to scientific analysis. Questions pertaining to the quality of art and literature are cases in point. Religion

is another, and questions concerning mysticism and the supernatural. Positive scientific evidence cannot be obtained about any of these. This list, however, does not include social and political problems. Most of our troubles are due, I think, to the fact that we have not been careful to obtain our facts and use them properly. As a non-scientist put it, when speaking of the use of facts in solving our various problems, "we should find them, filter them, focus them and face them." In other words, with respect to each problem that may arise, we need to, first, get all the facts that have a bearing on the problem, secondly, study the problem in the light of these facts, third, choose the tentative solution which seems likely to work best, and four, make tests on a limited basis to determine if the prospective solution will work.

But granting that all of this is desirable, what can be done to bring about the desired changes? Obviously it would be unreasonable to expect that any one individual or a small group of individuals, could do much to affect the thoughts and attitudes of a state or nation.

Perhaps we can make a start by applying the elements of scientific reasoning to our own lives. This can be done, or at least begun, by our developing a much more critical attitude toward the evidence that we use in acquiring our facts. Most of the rumors that come to us daily would have to be discarded for lack of evidence, of course, and many choice bits of gossip would lose their validity, but out of it all might come much clearer thinking and a saner approach to the problems of the day.

I think that we would soon find ourselves much less inclined to jump at conclusions. All of this would result in a healthful reluctance to form judgments before all of the evidence has been examined carefully, and this in turn could lead to more charitable attitudes toward our associates, immediate and remote. Propaganda cannot be used successfully on an individual who has been taught to reason scientifically, and who demands to see all of the evidence before he accepts a statement as a fact. Toleration of individual differences, which is a prime requisite for the success of a social organization at any level, and without which no one can validly profess even the basic elements of education, would be the most hoped-for result.

If this type of thinking, developed on an individual basis, could then be extended to the larger social units, the results might be surprising. At least this much is true, careful judgments based upon well scrutinized evidence, will not be made by groups until the members of the group have learned to use the technique on an individual basis; and therein lies the opportunity for each individual to make his own private contribution to more orderly group thought.

Hybrid Corn Up to Farmers

Most of the responsibility for the success of hybrid corn in Oklahoma will have to rest with state farmers, Dr. O. J. Eigsti, associate professor of plant sciences at the University of Oklahoma and developer of a "tailor-made" corn for Oklahoma, says.

Farmers must convince themselves that hybrids are different from open-pollinated corn and also which type is best for their soil, he adds.

Dr. Eigsti believes that hybrids will increase corn yield about 15 to 20 bushels per acre. And his tests in eastern Oklahoma seem to bear out this belief. Many farmers have reported substantial increases in their corn yield after finding a hybrid which is adapted to their particular soil and weather conditions.

Hybrid corn is specialized corn bred to make maximum yields under the soil and weather conditions existing at a given location. For this reason different strains have been discarded, others added—trying to find the right types for all parts of the test area.

In the Tall Timber

I am under a large tree near a foxhole, dodging observation by "enemy" planes.

Just received your note about annual membership and subscription to *Sooner Magazine*. Am sending a check to renew membership from date of expiration of last subscription.

Mud has been eye-high to a tall Indian and the weather miserable. However, will try to live through it and blame Hitler for my hereabouts.

Luck to all. Keep sending my *Sooner*. It is nice to read about people you know and have known.

Sincerely,
Foy L. George, '36ba, '40cd
Captain, Field Artillery
Tennessee Maneuvers

Finances Needed for O.U.

I've had a rating for some time but haven't gotten around to writing you about it. I got a technician fourth grade in August and have managed so far not to get busted but one never knows around here where one stands, does one? I am in a General Service Engineer regiment and am placed on the water purification crew.

I appreciated very much your list of all the Sooners in the service and enjoyed looking it over.

I surely hope Oklahoma politics wakes up to the fact that we have a good university in Oklahoma and we need one to continue, but realize that it takes money to run one. I for one am willing to pay more taxes if necessary to keep a good university.

Sincerely,
C. Harlan Dunn, '41eng
Sergeant, Engineers
Camp Claiborne, Louisiana

Boys Get Job Done

Received the address change card, and on returning it, decided to include this note.

For the present, we are out of the line, back in a rest area, for which I'm sure all officers and men are grateful.

Have been overseas since last February. Participated in the Sicilian invasion and have been belly deep in mud in sunny Italy for some time. To see the job these boys from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, etc., have done under the most difficult hand-caps, only impresses more thoroughly on one's mind that from our neck of the woods comes the fightin'est bunch of men Hitler will ever have to sweat out.

See some of the O.U. boys every once in a while. Capt. W. K. Garnett, '37law, is a battery commander in my outfit. "Tex" and "I" spin the yarns quite frequently of the good old days at school. . . .

Best regards,
Al Sims, '33bus
Major, Field Artillery
Italy

Shirk Wouldn't Quit

As to action over here, we saw no real action in Africa, as things folded up there just as we moved into combat. We made the Sicilian invasion and fought through that campaign and are now in Italy in action. We were not in the initial invasion of Italy.

As you probably know John Shirk is missing in action over here and you may be interested in the story as I got it from his outfit. He was a forward observer with the Artillery when an enemy counter-attack developed against the hill he was on. During the fight he was wounded in the hand and sent back to an aid station. He had his hand treated but refused to go to the rear, grabbed a rifle and went back up on the hill. The hill was overrun by the enemy and retaken the next day. There was no sign of Shirk or his body. Some doughboys who were captured at the same time and later escaped recalled seeing some officers taken prisoner who had been with Shirk. It is thought that he was taken prisoner

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Clearing the Desk

WHEN THE University of Oklahoma conferred the B.A. (journalism) degree upon Miss Elsie Faye Newby December 23, a twelfth Newby name was added to the alumni file. The others are: Mrs. Frank A. Buttram (Merle Newby, '06bm, '12ma); Errett R. Newby, '07bm, '08ba; Mrs. E. R. Newby (Lola North, '14ba); Mrs. Cadwalader Jones (Ruth Newby, '37bus); Mrs. James Shepherd (Elaine Newby, '40 speech); David North Newby, '43eng; Mrs. D. N. Newby (Ruth Ann Hummer, '43ba); Jessie D. Newby, '10ba, '25ma; Jerry B. Newby, '12ba; Mrs. J. B. Newby (Edna Cash, '15ba); and Warner W. Newby, '21ba (deceased). This makes a total of 15 O.U. degrees in the immediate family. The latest Newby graduate, Elsie Faye, is the daughter of Warner W. and Faye Dougherty, '23.

DISTANCE DOESN'T seem to mean much any more. When Lt. Col. Hal L. Muldrow, '28bus, distinguished himself in battle at Salerno in Italy, an article on his valiant work was written for *The Beta Theta Pi* fraternity magazine by Col. Lee B. Thompson, '27law, who was stationed at approximately the opposite side of the globe in the Fiji Islands. The article, relating how Colonel Muldrow's artillery battalion stopped the spearhead of a Ger-

man tank attack that threatened to split the hard-pressed Fifth Army line during the Salerno invasion, appeared in the January issue of the fraternity magazine.

FROM AUSTRALIA, Lt. Ed Ellinghausen, '41ba, writes to say that he and Lt. Bob Carter, '41bs, sang the O.U. songs one night while visiting an Australian home which had a piano—but they had a little difficulty remembering all the words of the glee club song *Oklahoma Hail*, and would we please print the words in *Sooner Magazine* for their benefit. We will, Ed, and here they are:

From the hillsides, from the prairies
Comes a song that never wearies,
Loyalty that never varies,
Oklahoma, Hail!

Ivied walls and stately towers,
Campus fair 'neath sun or showers,
All the love we bear thee flowers
And will never fail.

Shout the chorus loudly (loudly)!
Bear the emblem proudly (proudly)!
Army vast, we march at last
And lift our voices stoutly (stoutly)!

On we march for Alma Mater,
On we march nor ever falter,
Singing loud, each son and daughter,
Oklahoma, Hail!

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Letters

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and, of course, we all hope so. (Shirk has been reported a German prisoner by the War Department.)

It is muddy and nasty going over here at present, with lots of rain and fairly cool weather. Very uncomfortable at times, with some snow on the high ground. Slow, dirty work.

Hope this information will help some towards your records. With best regards to all,

W. K. Garnett, '37law
Captain, Field Artillery
Italy

Fighting Engineers

By way of bringing you up to date in my war experiences, I landed in North Africa with the Engineer Combat Regiment on the 26th of January, 1943. We did not get in on the actual fighting in North Africa, but did construction work such as the building of Prisoner of War camps, construction of hospitals and other military installations and roads. It was not until the Sicilian campaign that I got in the real battle.

As part of a Special Task Force and fighting as infantry, we landed with the initial landing of Allied troops on the beach at Gela, Sicily. Here our force fought and captured the city. I personally captured five Germans and assisted in the capture of 31 others. This was the proudest moment of my life. Throughout the campaign we maintained roads and bridges, removed enemy mine fields and booby traps. The Germans are very clever in the use of their land and anti-personnel mines. These mines make it dangerous even for those in the rear and out of artillery range. However, the Engineers have become skilled in the handling of mines. After the

campaign we enjoyed a rest period at Mondello Beach, near Palermo.

We landed in Italy on September 15, 1943, and have performed the same type of work as in Sicily. The crossing of the Volturno River was an experience that will never be forgotten, because the Engineers crossed in front of the Infantry. I'm still wondering who started this "Sunny Italy" stuff.

The Combat Engineers are very proud of the word "Combat" in their title and you will always find them right in the hottest part of the battle. They are expected to be able to fire the Bazooka gun as well as the Infantrymen and oftentimes they have to go out in front of the Infantry to clear mines.

Bill Hargis, '40
Captain, Engineers
Italy

France Decorates

I have just completed reading the August issue of the *Sooner* and sure did enjoy checking the list for friends in the service. O. U. should be proud of her contribution of sons and daughters.

For the archives, I have been decorated with the French Croix de Service and was promoted to major March 7. We have had a very interesting go of it so far—some good, some bad. Of course, we will all be glad to get back and see the campus again.

Best regards,
Walter O. Beets, '28-'31
Major, Field Artillery
APO New York City

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