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In Charge of This Issue

F. A. Barrett, H. J. Ryan

Friday, December 29, 1922

PROGRESSIVISM

It is not impossible that the next presidential election will be similar to that of 1912 when the Roosevelt Progressives split the ranks of the Republican party and gave the election to the Democrats.

The leaders in this new progressive movement stoutly deny the formation of a third party. Their object, as they claim, is to drive special privilege out of control of the government and to force the passage of better and more scientific legislation on questions relating to labor, agriculture, shipping and taxation.

There has been much criticism of the new bloc. Senator LaFollette, its leader, is spoken of as a radical and it is even hinted that he has some connection with the Russian Soviet Government. These accusations have a partisan taint to them.

posed mainly of senators from the middle west and unless they hold fast to the principle of legislating the greatest good for the greatest number, there is danger that their strength may be used in the passage of sectional measures.

As a counter movement, the more conservative G. O. P. elements are preparing to make their own some of the measures advocated by the Progressives. This is the best news of all. It makes little difference to the voters and taxpayers who is responsible for good legislation when voting time is passed, but it is essential that such legislation be passed.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT

NEW LEARNING CENTERS

Our county jails are not such odious abodes as they once were. Evangelists and marshmallow criminologists have succeeded in removing most of the objectionable features of prison life, until now the jails in one of our states, at least, have been converted into extension universities.

The trustees of Pennsylvania state college have made it possible for inmates of jails throughout the state to secure a college training free of charge. Through the medium of an extension service the prisoner can pursue at leisure a carefully planned and well organized curriculum in shop, engineering, mathematics, drafting, business law, foreman training, or any one of a number of other courses.

The social status of prisoners is gradually rising. Who in the future will spend thousands of dollars attending a university when, in the peaceful seclusion of a county jail, he can secure all of the benefits of higher education totally at the expense of the state?

PROTEINS ACIDS AND BASES SAYS DR. LOEB

Are Not Colloids but Exist as Large Molecules

The new and radical contention that the proteins in our bodies are not colloids, as scientists have generally assumed, but acids and bases of quite orthodox chemical behavior, was made by Dr. Jacques Loeb, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, speaking before the chemical section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Loeb, whose researches on the chemical nature of the life-process, and the causes of death even among individuals absolutely protected from attack by disease germs, have aroused great interest in recent years, explained his views regarding the proteins, the principal constituents of animal bodies.

Proteins Not All Colloidal

It has been customary to regard proteins as typically colloidal substances. Indeed the name "colloid" is taken from the gum-like nature of many proteins. Dr. Loeb, however, produced much evidence to show that these substances, instead of consisting of aggregates of many molecules, like the true colloids, are in reality made up of single molecules, each of gigantic size (as molecules go) and able to act at the same time both as acids and as bases.

"We can therefore state," said Dr. Loeb in conclusion, "that it is possible to explain the 'colloidal' behavior of proteins quantitatively on the basis of a rationalistic mathematical formula. What appeared at first as a new chemistry, the so-called colloid chemistry, now seems to have been only an overlooked equilibrium condition of classical chemistry. At least so far as the proteins are concerned."

AGRICULTURAL SECTION HEAR DR. B. L. HARTWELL

The greatest and most pressing need for scientific service today, in connection with the production of crop plants, is the need for co-ordinating the work of specialists in the various branches of science which have to do with problems of crop production, according to Dr. B. L. Hartwell, director and agronomist of the Rhode Island State College agricultural experiment station. In a paper deliv-

ered before the agricultural section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science yesterday afternoon. Professor Hartwell said that unless greater service can be rendered in the field lying between the lines of what are generally considered as distinct sciences, much valuable research work will fail to have its maximum application.

Calls for Trained Men

The chemist, the phytobiologist, the soil biologist, the botanist, the meteorologist, all are able to contribute to the solution of problems of crop production, but each is limited in his knowledge of the subject as a whole, and toward whatever border lines we turn, said Dr. Hartwell, there is a dearth of men adequately trained and capable of rendering satisfactory agricultural service between the lines of science when there are so many problems clamoring for solution even from an immediate economic standpoint.

"This is not a suitable opportunity," said Dr. Hartwell, "to enumerate these many problems, but rather to make an appeal to our universities for more sympathetic attention to the training of men, and to the direction of their talents towards the application of research to the solution of those problems which lie between the sciences."

PSYCHOLOGISTS HEAR PROF. G. M. STRATTON

The popular belief that the color red produces anger in cattle, and especially in bulls, is wholly mistaken, said Professor G. M. Stratton, of the University of California, speaking before the American Psychological Association, yesterday.

Experiments have shown, he stated, that the reaction of these animals to colored cloths need in no way be attributed to the color itself. The real causes, according to Professor Stratton, are: general strangeness of the object, its brightness, and its movement.

White Attracts Most

"More attention," he explained, "was paid to white than to red; about as much attention went to green as to red; a sudden flutter of any color is mildly startling. But apart from persons, none of these things seemed to cause anything distantly suggesting anger. It is probable that the popular belief arises from the fact that cattle, and particularly bulls, have attacked persons displaying red, when the cause of the attack lay in the behavior of the person, in his strangeness, or in other factors apart from the color itself. The human knowledge that red is the color of blood, and that blood is exciting, doubtless has helped the fallacy."

Cattlemen in general agreed with him, Professor Stratton went on, although they were unanimous in saying that the shed blood of another animal powerfully excites cattle of both sexes. He admitted present doubt whether this is essentially fear or anger, whether it arises from the color or odor of the blood, and whether it depends at all upon the kind of animal which shed the blood. But experiments to settle these matters are now in preparation, Professor Stratton said.

DR. H. S. COLTON SPEAKS TO ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Harold S. Colton, Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of Pennsylvania, illustrated the part played by natural selection in the local distribution of animals yesterday afternoon by telling the American Society of Ecologists about an experiment made by him on dog whelks, a variety of snails, at Little Duck Island, near Mount Desert.

"Natural selection," Dr. Colton said, "still interests those who are trying to explain the local distribution of animals. Although some animals choose their own homes, yet others are controlled by their external conditions and have no individual choice.

"On the rocks of our northern coast we are struck with the many colored 'wrinkles' or dog whelks which cover the rocks. Although yellow, white, olive, or purple colored shells may be mixed on a given rock, yet the proportions of the colors, as in human populations, vary with the locality."

Dark Snails Survive

To determine the reason for this, Dr. Colton made use of the following conditions. Little Duck Island, lying five miles out to sea from Mount Desert Island, contains a nesting place for herring gulls, and in the summer is frequented by many hundreds. In the diet of the gulls the dog whelk plays a prominent part. On the shore of the island the snails are scarce, small and dark colored.

In a tide pool on this island Dr. Colton placed eighty large white snails and eighty large dark ones. A return to the island two months later showed that the gulls had picked off the light colored snails faster than the dark-colored ones. In fact, for every two dark-colored survivors Dr. Colton found but one light-colored snail. Selection by the gulls seems to be a factor governing the color of the snails on these particular rocks.

OLGA STECK DELIGHTS PATRONS OF SHUBERT

Christmas matinee opened the Boston run of the musical comedy, "In Springtime of Youth," which is playing at the Shubert Theatre with the original New York cast. It comes directly here from an extensive run at the Broadhurst Theatre.

Sweet Olga Steck plays the part of Priscella Alden, ward of Roger Hathaway, who was, for many years, blind. Roger Hathaway makes it possible for her to receive sight, and she loves him for it. He returns incognito, only to see her won by the son of a family enemy. The play is of the "Springtime" type, with the scene layed in 1812.

Harry Morton's exceedingly clever dancing and humor, and the wit of Zella Russell, who plays opposite him, floods the show with wholesome humor.

Resumes Football

The Brigham Young University of Provo, Utah, one of the greatest Universities in the West, has resumed intercollegiate football after a lapse of 26 years. At the first call for football candidates, this fall, many showed their desire for the sport, by attending the first meeting.

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