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NEWS FROM ABROAD

For several weeks news from abroad—news from the Far East and more recently from the Mediterranean—has cast a long shadow over American speculative markets. Wheat has been bid up on successive "war scares." Stocks have been sold on the same fears. No doubt other influences have also played a part in determining the

the United States will come to recognize the necessary limitations of a policy of isolation and to accept, however gradually, the share of responsibility which falls naturally to a great world Power.

AMERICA IMPORTS GENIUS

Nothing can compensate for the untold evil done by the persecution of minorities in the countries under dictatorships—the unhappiness brought to the thousands of victims, the setback to all liberty and culture and human values. But here and there this persecution brings consequences that have their consoling aspects. This has been true, for example, of the welcome that America has extended to some of the German refugees. It has brought, and seems certain to bring in future, a two-sided benefit. It helps those refugees to continue to live and function at their favorite pursuits. And it will help as a ferment to the cultural life of this country.

The great name of Einstein in this connection is symbolic. He is permitted to continue his work here; and his presence in our midst must stimulate and inspire American scientists. The recent visit of Thomas Mann was a similar inspiration in the field of literature. The "University in Exile," now entering its fifth year, has supplied a place and an audience for nearly a score of exiled German and Italian professors, and has enriched research in this country in the political and social sciences. The results do not end here. Walter Gropius, the great German modern architect, is teaching at Harvard, and his chief assistant, László Moholy-Nagy, painter, sculptor and photographer, arrived here a few days ago to head a school in Chicago, to be known as the New Bauhaus. The presence of such men should quicken the advance of architecture and city planning in this country. Professor Moholy in an interview upon his arrival here commented that New York was somewhat lacking in "greenness." "We town planners," he declared, "have an idea that there should be a green spot—a park or a square—within 500 yards of every living place." It does not seem at all like a bad idea.

The hospitality that America extends to these men should not be merely physical, but spiritual. We should not be in too great haste to "Americanize" them—in the sense of attempting to indoctrinate them with all the beliefs we already hold. To make the most of their presence here we must think not only of what we have to tell them but of what they have to tell us.

DESIGN FOR SEPTEMBER

body. Radium had been used—a dangerous experiment—to determine the velocity of the blood. This heavy hydrogen was an ideal tracer. Some experiments of Professor Hevesy's, going as far back as 1921, indicated as much.

Professor Rudolf Schoenheimer of Columbia lost no time in following up the clue. He did not drink heavy water himself, but he gave it to mice to discover what happened to the fat that they lay on. A fat is composed in part of hydrogen. If the hydrogen could be identified—and it can be when it is twice as heavy as the ordinary kind—new light would be thrown on the mysterious processes of converting food into tissue, energy and fat. The chemists who heard Professor Schoenheimer at the meeting of the American Chemical Society last week must have come away with a feeling of elation. They had listened to a revolutionary paper, a presentation which would make it necessary to rewrite every textbook on physiology.

Probably nine-tenths of humanity believes that the fat which encumbers the activities of the stout stays year in and year out wherever it is deposited. The heavy hydrogen atom tells a different story. Half a mouse's fat (and presumably half a man's fat too) is renewed within five to nine days. The too solid flesh of which Hamlet complained actually melts in a chemical sense, to be converted into something else. Moreover, the acids of butter and milk fat are consumed as fast as they are eaten, which is news that ought to bring the lovers of peaches and cream and buttered cakes to their feet with cheers. Other startling revelations—the difference between the chemical behavior of oily fats like those of olives and peanuts and of hard ones like suet or tallow—will make it necessary for the dietary experts to learn a new and more scientific art of reducing. And all because twenty drops of heavy water, less than a thimbleful, make it possible to follow an atom from the digestive tract to the uttermost tissue in a finger tip. Not since Dr. Beaumont a century ago saw through an open gunshot wound in the stomach of a French-Canadian woodsman what happens in digestion has anything so startling and so important been revealed about the chemistry of food.

THE OUTLOOK IN INDIA

The diehards—British and Indian alike—who hold that Anglo-Indian co-operation is impossible continue to be disproved by events. Under encouraging circumstances the Central Legislative Assembly has opened in the hill capital of Simla the first session since the general election last February. That contest gave the All-India Congress (nationalist and independence)