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## 50 YEARS OF CURRENT SCIENCE—GLEANINGS

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### BEQUEST OF PAVLOV TO THE ACADEMIC YOUTH\*†

**W**HAT can I wish to the youth of my country who devote themselves to science?

*Firstly*, gradualness. About this most important condition of fruitful scientific work I never can speak without emotion. Gradualness, gradualness and gradualness. From the very beginning of your work, school yourselves to severe gradualness in the accumulation of knowledge.

Learn the ABC of science before you try to ascend to its summit. Never begin the subsequent without mastering the preceding. Never attempt to screen an insufficiency of knowledge even by the most audacious surmise and hypothesis. Howsoever this soap-bubble will rejoice your eyes by its play it inevitably will burst and you will have nothing except shame.

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\* Written just before Pavlov's death, at the age of 87 years, on February 27, 1936. Translated from the Russian by Professor P. Kupalov, chief assistant in the Pavlov Institute at Leningrad.

† Published in *Current Science*, 1936, Vol. 3, p. 824.

School yourselves to demureness and patience. Learn to inure yourselves to drudgery in science. Learn, compare, collect the facts!

Perfect as is the wing of a bird, it never could raise the bird up without resting on air. Facts are the air of a scientist. Without them you never can fly. Without them your "theories" are vain efforts.

But learning, experimenting, observing, try not to stay on the surface of the facts. Do not become the archivists of facts. Try to penetrate to the secret of their occurrence, persistently search for the laws which govern them.

*Secondly*, modesty. Never think that you already know all. However highly you are appraised, always have the courage to say of yourself—I am ignorant.

Do not allow haughtiness to take you in possession. Due to that you will be obstinate where it is necessary to agree, you will refuse useful advice and friendly help, you will lose the standard of objectiveness.

*Thirdly*, passion. Remember that science demands from a man all his life. If you had two lives that would be not enough for you. Be passionate in your work and your searchings.—(*Science*, 1936, 83, 369.)

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

The International Conference on Radioactive Waste Management will be held in Seattle, Washington (USA) from 16 to 20 May 1983.

The objectives of the conference are (a) to provide a broad forum for an international exchange of views and information on waste management for both policy makers and technical experts; (b) to highlight issues of current importance; and (c) to identify possible approaches to their solution on the basis of knowledge accumulated from past experience, research and development work and policy considerations.

The general topics to be addressed at the conference are: 1. Waste management policy and its implementation; 2. Waste handling and treatment at nuclear facilities: operating experience, projects, technological trends and requirements; 3. Long-term storage and disposal of radioactive wastes: practices and plans; 4. Environmental and safety assessments of waste management systems: goals and methodologies; 5. radioactive releases into the environment from nuclear operations: status and future; 6. International Co-operation. About 800 participants from many countries, nominated by their Governments, are expected to attend the conference.

Further information may be had from The International Atomic Energy Agency, Wagramerstrasse 5, P. O. Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

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