
CURRENT SCIENCE — 50 YEARS AGO

SPIRITUAL DISARMAMENT*

IF the Founder of Christian Religion were to reappear in Palestine or Central Europe, who can describe his feelings of shame and sorrow at the transformation of the "image of God" into a cross between Moloch and Puck. Human nature being the same all the world over, Eastern Asia is emulating the excesses of Europe. Even at the risk of provoking the laughter of the political Pharisees and the Aryan scribes, we reproduce below the canons of human relationship propounded by Him whose Church still nominally claims the allegiance of white civilization.

The spirit of the Lord must have been upon Herr Hitler, when he pronounced the beautiful phrase, "Spiritual Disarmament" which is an excellent summary of the above sermon. But we know that neither democrats nor dictators are the modern representatives of this immaculate spirit, and their eyes, instead of being turned to the heavens, are fixed on armaments as the only argument of peace. What is most disconcerting is that the religion of the Church and the culture of the philosopher alike never wore white gloves for moderating and assuaging the influence of the primitive passions of their followers. It might almost seem true that both religion and culture as understood or as misunderstood, have a banality and inward dryness which are irremediable sins in the eyes of grace. As an element making for proportion, harmony and taste, culture is individualistic; as a basis of sacrifice, service and love, religion is equally individualistic. Their universal character though taught and defended by the scholar and the saint through centuries, is entirely static and fugitive, to which history bears ample evidence. Under the impact of the dynamic forces of material progress, religion and culture seem powerless, and lose their natural predilection for the reasonable processes of compromise and arbitration as against the more summary decisions by force of arms.

In the language of modern imperialism which resorts to violence and warfare for spreading the new gospel of civilization, the boisterous phrases "racial

equality", "cultural freedom" and "international justice" are simply unmitigated cant. It will be remembered that the League of Nations, which was to act as the fountain and source of international peace and harmony, refused, under the threat of the withdrawal of some of its original members, to accept the principle of racial equality as an underlying factor in the preamble of the Covenant of the League. If the original powers could guarantee the administration of racial justice in an absolutely impartial spirit, where is the objection to the full and unconditional affirmation of racial equality. This mental reservation is undoubtedly the cause of all the fearful developments with which modern statesmen are confronted, and once we grant racial and cultural superiority on the part of certain groups of people, it is only natural to expect that this superiority must express itself in aggressiveness. People have implicit faith in the egregiously false doctrine that superiority of culture is synonymous with superiority of physical power, and the logical conclusion of such facile acquiescence is the robust philosophy that superiority must supplant inferiority throughout the habitable globe. But culture and religion never possessed the large-hearted peaceable quality which legend associates with them, but, on the other hand, becoming subordinate to the dominating influence of politics, they have been accessory to bloodshed. Theoretically man is prepared to be bound to his God, but he prefers in all his activities to be divided from his fellow beings. Universal brotherhood of man is an abstract philosophic conception, and as an article of faith in the practical affairs of the world, it was found unworkable. We know that religion and culture always range themselves readily and whole-heartedly on the side of political power, when engaged in international conflicts which they bless and justify, though they may have ceased to be their direct provocative cause.

These and good many other things are contained in all the religious works of the world. What is it that has made them defunct, will they at any time become the active principles of the life of nations and of individuals? Is armament the necessary pre-

*Published in *Curr. Sci.*, 1938, 7, 215.

lude for the reinstatement of peace? We are not appalled by the "race of armaments" for we are convinced that a point must be sooner than later reached, when the very deadliness of the weapons will make war eventually impossible. It is not improbable that science may still perfect such unthinkably

terrible engines of war. Perhaps nations may then decide to bury them in the oceans, and evolve other solutions for mutual concord and world-wide peace. It is too premature to talk of "Spiritual Disarmament", when our hearts and hands are still unclean.

NEWS

NEW OPTICAL TEST EQUIPMENT FROM U.K.

What is claimed to be the most significant advance in lens testing instrumentation in the last decade will be introduced by a British optical equipment specialist during the Kirklees and Wakefield Chamber of Commerce trade mission to India from 1 to 15 October.

Ealing Electro-Optics' Eros lens tester is particularly suitable for automated measurement with computer control, largely eliminating the potential for operator error and greatly speeding up the whole measurement process.

The technology is based on a high-resolution photodiode array which captures the line spread function of a test lens without the need for any mechanical movement during measurement. The result, says Commercial Director John Hornsby, is an instrument which is extremely reliable and compact.

The Vidispec

Mr. Hornsby will also introduce a new development in the field of non-contact optical test equipment, the Vidispec. It enables engineers to observe

the microscopic deformation of a component as the result of an applied load or stress, either static or dynamic, in real time. This is achieved under realistic working conditions with an accuracy of the order of a wavelength of light.

Results are clearly displayed on a video monitor as a contour map, showing the amount of displacement superimposed on the test component. Any flaws in its material structure or design can be quickly identified.

In principle Vidispec can be used to examine objects of almost any shape or size. Its self-contained 10-milliwatt laser is quite adequate for most objects up to 300 millimetres in diameter. For objects as large as 2 metres in diameter a higher-powered laser can be used. (British Information Services, BIS.B.271; Published by British High Commission, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021; Ealing Electro-Optics PLC, Greycaine Road, Watford WD2 4PW, England. Indian Agents: Dr. S. D. Paul, Indian Chemical Company, Happy Sound Building, Okhla Industrial Estate, near State Bank of India, New Delhi 110 020).