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CAN KNOWLEDGE EXPAND WITHOUT TRUTH?

A recent editorial suggested that our universities are not encouraging the process of original thought. The author pointed out that free thought is being sacrificed at the expense of specialization, and that this in itself is detrimental to the expansion of knowledge.

This argument, I consider, is commendable in the fact that in itself it makes a student think, but I personally feel the solution offered falls short of a few fundamental principles which should also be considered.

It is not the over consideration of rules and formulae that impedes the process of original thought, but rather a restless drive for consummation of wisdom before the essentials for clear understanding have been mastered. The function of universities is, primarily, to prepare a man or woman to fill a useful place among his fellow men. A four or five year course at university can do no more than prepare the student for greater work. This fact alone must be accepted if one considers the great fields of knowledge now at our disposal. Never in history of human knowledge has such an accumulation of facts and theories confronted the unlearned. To my mind it would be a serious error if we were to consider ourselves prepared for original thought before our apprenticeship at university was completed. Every clear thinking individual must agree that modern discoveries in science are only a new combination of existing facts and ideas, a new arrangement of the cultural elements that have been learned at university or otherwise handed down to us. If these fundamental ideas are not learned before we set out to synthesize original thought, then many painstaking mistakes and disappointments will inevitably confront us. How would it be possible for an artist to mold a beautiful form if he did not supplement his natural appreciation of beauty with a sound knowledge of all that has been accomplished in creative art for the past five hundred years. It is not superior brain power that



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gives modern man such an abundant versatility, but rather the fact that he has more tools in the form of ideas to work with than his ancestors.

Biological evolution is a process whereby certain properties advantageous to a species have developed and are perpetuated to every member of the species by a process that we call heredity. Similarly so, our evolution of knowledge, or accumulated experience, is passed on from generation to generation. This is done in two ways. Our first impressions of behavior and knowledge are derived from a common association, with our families. The other, the more complex aspect, is derived from our schools and universities. It is with the latter that we are now so deeply concerned. How small and insignificant is the portion of learning that we receive, and how short too is the time that we avail ourselves to receive it. This is perhaps the very root of the problem of specialization. Our universities are faced with a problem that grows more difficult as the years go by—as the accumulation of knowledge grows more in diversity and meaning it becomes necessary to break down this huge mass of knowledge into portions that can be absorbed by the individual. Centuries ago this was not a problem. Students then could coast serenely through their college years nibbling at this and that on the tree of knowledge and were assured of a pretty good share of the whole tree. Today it takes us five years at university to nibble the fruit on one branch of this tree, so greatly does knowledge expand and differentiate as mankind progresses.

We have finally arrived at a point where students must share one particular line of study. Today we must master the essential collected facts that a multitude of in-

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FEAT

"PET"

He was sitting on the step where he became his favorite position, and he looked outside steps, peer around the corner of the alley and street. He liked it there for the sun felt warm on his coat, in a way not altogether strange to him, for the kindness that soothed him and gave him a sense of peace as she went in the place. She made at home and after awhile some man came back to the step and the sun.

He came back often, and the man's thing was not too bad: they played with him and stroked him and he knew what was said, but that did not matter, playful, or teasing, or caressing, and the man's thing was sometimes angry, and he put back his ears and flinched.

One of the things that had happened to him and flash that he saw on the table and his hind legs to find out. Not his thing, and he jumped up on to it, and felt alarm from the two things. Then as he instinctively drew back the door away. He forgot about this strange sound, the sounds that were warm to him. They used to open the door after a while he recognized their sound "Peter" with food and if he came. He usually did not come to enjoy the grass.

One day he nearly decided to go. He always stayed in the Place at the corner of the reasons why he liked to stay there where you could see out or left open and he could come and there during the day but they came there to pet and play with him in a place for they went in and out and smells—he could not go. They liked that kept him out. One night he was hungry as it became light, he went to see if anything was left in his dish. The good smells—tickled his nose, and food, but he smelled water, and his hind legs he looked over the rim side. Disappointed, he looked at the glint caught his eye. Nose quivered, he stood there looking up, he would find out what it was! He could look right down on the table and they were fish! They flashed at his lips. His tail lashed with excitement, stomach. Tentatively he made a dash for it and drew it back in surprise. His lips lifted at the corners in a half smile and he trembled all over as he scooped stroke with his paw and his hind legs fluttered. Again he tried and his shape was on the floor. Down he went. The process was repeated.

He was still dabbling at a bowl of water, in an ecstasy of excitement. During the next few minutes he was not pleasant, but they were later. The only reason he did not go was that he was raising. He hated getting So he staled off and lay down to rest. He was surprised when the man came though he wasn't hungry he ate and he was better.

Domestic affairs remained in a state of always open, even though it got to get through became narrower and took a few hairs out of his tail, but it and out. There was a convenience not care for his food at home to

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