

absents itself during the day and always at night, it returns to the same place. We have not been able to discover its night resting place. (3) A piece of mirror was fastened to the outside of the glass by means of two bright 3 in. optics pins stuck into the frame. The mirror was loose behind the pins and the nature of the restraining force would be clear to a creature with intelligence. The presence of the mirror much excited the bird, and it made violent efforts to get behind the mirror. To do this it seized the pins in its beak and pulled. On two occasions it managed to remove the pins. (4) Occasionally during the day, regularly at about 8.30 a.m., it fetches pieces of food and tries to push them through the glass. The food is obtained nearby, where tits and chaffinches are fed daily. There are not many house sparrows on this particular feeding ground. (5) The bird shows considerable boldness, for people are constantly passing within a few feet of it. It made attacking rushes towards me when I was fixing the mirror in position. (6) At times the bird becomes tired and rests, sometimes on a small projection above the window, more frequently huddled close to the glass. When the mirror was in position it usually chose to huddle close to the mirror. In both these resting places it often utters its song.

We are interested in the implications of this evidence. In the first place, the deliberate and repeated efforts to remove the pins holding the mirror argues a certain amount of intelligence. Secondly, why should this bird ignore the available real birds which have the auxiliary attractions of smell and song and devote itself to a faint visual image? Surely this action cannot be purely instinctive. It argues a mental maladjustment; but this postulates the possibility of intelligence well above the instinctive level.

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April 3.

Wordsworth and Science

WORDSWORTH'S apparent antipathy to science, as revealed by the quotations which Dr. Wigglesworth has given in NATURE of March 25 from his poetical works, has always provoked adverse comment, not unnaturally, from scientific men, and the quotation which has so long adorned the front page of NATURE has always borne a somewhat ironical air.

Yet it would seem that Wordsworth once had high hopes of science, and those who have read his famous introduction to the "Lyrical Ballads" will find there a more sympathetic view of it and, incidentally, a statement of what Wordsworth conceived to be the relationship between science and poetry. That relationship touches the crux of the matter, however we view it, but I do not propose to discuss it here. But it may be pointed out that when Wordsworth was writing, science had elaborated few of those great generalizations with which we are now familiar and which have some claim to be regarded as imaginative efforts paralleling those of the poet and artist.

It would also appear that Wordsworth's strictures were provoked less by science itself than by a certain narrow-mindedness he had found in 'scientists' of a sort with whom he had come into contact. His animadversions may not have been altogether unde-

served; scientific workers of a certain type and calibre do not always exhibit in their mental outlook the fruits of a liberal education, assuming they have had one, and their attitude to poetry and the arts may be as unsympathetic and naïve as that which Wordsworth often displayed towards science. There was some ground for his revulsion from the cold detachment of science when the pursuit of it deadened the wider sensibilities of some of its followers. If poetry and the poets have their vapourings on occasion, science and the scientists have equally their aridities and myopic crudities.

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MR. SCRUTON'S comments, with which I am in entire agreement, afford me an opportunity of making good an omission from my article. I omitted to state that my notes were limited to Wordsworth's poetical writings. The omission is indefensible; but the limitation I think can be defended, for Wordsworth's prose writings are immeasurably inferior to his poetry—as he himself surely felt when he hesitated whether to reprint the prefaces, and decided to include them at the end of his last volume where they could be read or not as the reader might desire.

As Mr. Scruton rightly says, the references to science which the prefaces contain are certainly more sympathetic. "The knowledge both of the Poet and the Man of science is pleasure". But still "Poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge; it is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all Science." Wordsworth concedes that "the remotest discoveries of the Chemist" may be "proper objects of the Poet's art" and "if the time should ever come when what is now called science . . . shall be ready to put on, as it were, a form of flesh and blood, the Poet will lend his divine spirit to aid the transfiguration, and will welcome the Being thus produced, as a dear and genuine inmate of the household of man". As Mr. Scruton asks in effect, if Wordsworth were alive to-day, would he have judged that that time had now arrived?

V. B. WIGGLESWORTH.

The Rare Gene Rh_y in Mother and Son

Wiener¹, and Race *et al.*^{2,3,4}, have independently described allelomorphs of the Rh gene. In addition to the six common to both investigations, the possession of the St serum enabled Race *et al.*³ to define a seventh rare allelomorph, Rh_y .

The first family evidence that Rh_y is allelomorphic has just been obtained from the examination of the parents of the first Rh_1Rh_y donor recognized. His mother was Rh_1Rh_y , and his father's blood gave the reactions of Rh_1Rh_2 . Three different sera of the St type were used in testing this family.

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Medical Research Council,
Emergency Blood Transfusion Service.
April 11.

¹ Wiener, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. and Med.*, **54**, 316 (1943).

² Race and Taylor, NATURE, **152**, 300 (1943).

³ Race, Taylor, Boorman and Dodd, NATURE, **152**, 563 (1943).

⁴ Race, Taylor, Cappell and McFarlane, NATURE, **153**, 52 (1944).