

Concluding remarks

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The discussions throughout the day have been characterized by enthusiasm. However, the problem of demonstrating causality in nutritional research, to which attention was drawn by Professor Neuberger in opening the workshop, has become increasingly apparent as the meeting has progressed.

This problem is probably fundamental and contributory to the habit of developing arguments from specific studies to generalized propositions. Further, in some instances hypotheses, which have been developed from such uncertain ground, are presented as facts. Whilst one may expect that such occurrences are infrequent and of little significance, causing no more than confusion to the originator, this is not always the case.

A thirst has been demonstrated throughout the discussions of the present meeting for facts and theories to explain their significance. This is particularly the case amongst those who are truly concerned with education, and yet attention must be paid to the risks associated with substituting opinion for missing facts.

These problems are not new for the educationist. Huxley (1881), writing of the debates which followed the publication of the *Origin of Species*, warned that 'the scientific spirit is of more value than its products, and irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors'.

REFERENCE

Huxley, T. H. (1881). *Science and Culture and Other Essays: The Coming of Age of the Origin of Species*. London: Macmillan & Co. Ltd.

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