

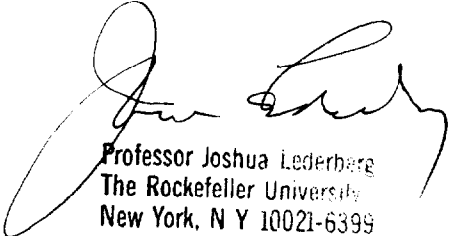
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The Sloan series has opened a new channel of expression of the scientific mind for public edification. It is unmatched in this generation. It recalls more heroic works from parallels earlier in this century, but in an appropriately modern, life-sized vein. (I think of Ramon y Cajal's autobiography, Eve Curie's biography of Marie, and Vallery-Radot's Life of Pasteur). Some of the most powerful and compassionate intellects of our time have been recruited, and several, (e.g. Medawar, Thomas, Jacob, Dyson), are writers of lyric distinction, apart from their towering scientific achievements. Taken together, the series is a monument to the commitment of the scientific life. Especially important it is a model for the young in shaping their careers -- not only in the selection of science, but in a style of pursuit that radiates esthetic satisfaction and ethical integrity.

Several authors write in a less poetic vein, but have much to teach us about scientific input to public life (e.g. Alvarez, York, Ryden on Rabi).

They are all a good read and should appeal to the broadest of audiences, from scientific colleagues to high school students. The human side of science can be an added spice to excite the appetite for its sometimes difficult content. Both are important for a society which confronts ever more complex dilemmas and opportunities in the use of scientific and technical advances.

The Sloan Foundation deserves congratulation for this unique enterprise, truly bringing science within the public consciousness.


Professor Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
New York, N Y 10021-6399

FEB 19 1991