

YHAL F08 048

(Reprinted from NATURE, Vol. 156, page 704, December 15, 1945)

DUBLIN COLLOQUIUM, 1945

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THIS year's Colloquium or Summer School of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies was held during July 5-18. I have described the character of the Institute and of these annual meetings in a review of Schrodinger's lectures on "Statistical Thermodynamics"<sup>1</sup>. The lecturers of this course were Dirac (Cambridge), Jánossy (Manchester) and myself, to whom was added less officially W. H. Peng, my former Chinese collaborator, who has now been appointed assistant professor at the Dublin Institute.

The audience was more international than during the war-time colloquia; apart from Peng, there were students from Brazil, Ceylon and Palestine, an Austrian sent by a London body (British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association) and others. Yet the majority was Irish, some of them priests of the Roman Church. Coming straight from the Academy celebrations in Moscow, I was struck by the profound contrast between these two scientific meetings: there the materialistic idea that science has to serve social progress by producing practical results, here a spiritual attitude of pure research without regard to applications. The character of the conferences corresponded to these fundamental attitudes: in the U.S.S.R., stimulating addresses on wide topics by scholars of all nations, to vast audiences, and visits to enormous laboratories; in Eire, a small number of experts assembled for intensive study and discussion of a few abstract problems.

Yet, great as the difference of atmosphere may have been, one thing there was in common: the acknowledgment of the importance of fundamental research and of the perfect freedom of thought in its pursuit.

In fact, the experience in the U.S.S.R. and in Eire have strengthened my conviction that these two aspects, which are the driving forces behind scientific activity in Governments as well as individuals, are not contradictory but complementary, in a similar sense as the wave and corpuscle aspect are in quantum physics. Practically, both attitudes lead to a result pleasant to the man of science, namely, a highly honoured position in the community. The