

So, in the twenty-fifth year of Dr. Jesse M. Shaver's editorship of the "Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science," The American Association for the Advancement of Science joins the Tennessee Academy in doing him honor, not only for his contribution to the Academy but to the advancement of science in America as well.

THE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SCIENTIST: A TRIBUTE TO DR. JESSE M. SHAVER¹

A. J. SHARP

University of Tennessee

In this time when it is the custom to say: "What is there in it for me?", it is wise to stop and ask ourselves: "What are our responsibilities as scientists?" It seems that as a minimum there are five obligations which we must meet.

Firstly, we must be objective and open-minded, not only when there is little controversy but also in times like these when the pressure for conformity is great. This is perhaps the most trying responsibility of the true scientist.

Secondly, we must be tolerant. Resisting encroachment on our own intellectual freedom, we must permit others to disagree with us, and encourage even our own adversaries to reach their own independent conclusions.

Thirdly, we must have a broad point of view and admit that there is only one universe. We must with humility integrate our specialty into the knowledge of the whole and realize that relationships exist between all disciplines.

Fourthly, we must be very demanding of ourselves, and must encourage others to be self-critical.

Fifthly, the scientist is obligated not only to search and find, but also to instruct the public concerning his results, particularly the impact which his findings may have on society.

Successful performance in these matters may well insure the recruitment of sufficient new personnel in the science field, and the public understanding and support of science so badly needed today.

It is clear from the statements here presented from his colleagues and friends that Dr. Jesse M. Shaver has fully satisfied all the criteria mentioned above, and it is not only fitting and proper but also a pleasure to hail him as well worthy of everything inherent in the title: **scientist!**

¹One of a series of talks given in Dr. Shaver's honor at the dinner meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science in Oak Ridge, November 27, 1953.