

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

As we begin the New Year, a year which may well be called the beginning of a new era, most of us, if we give any thought to the question at all, are concerned over the use the world will make of atomic power. We should, however, change our concern into active thinking about it, because whether mankind understands the problem that has been set before it is a question of vital importance.

The successful development of the atomic bomb by the scientists of the United Nations was merely the winning of a race between them and German scientists; had the Germans succeeded first the war would almost certainly have ended in their favor. At no time during the development of atomic power were our scientists blind to its possibilities of evil, but after its use they had the consolation of knowing that they had shortened the war considerably.

But there is deeper consolation for all of us, a faith that the experience gained from the production of the bomb, through the joint work of many nationalities, can be made to serve the progress and not the annihilation of mankind.

Within the next decade we can expect success in the beneficial utilization of atomic power. To attain this will be no easy problem and will require most intensive effort. Of course we cannot expect that atomic power plants can be constructed at once which will, for example, provide our dwellings with light or power. Nor can we expect at once that fuels driving our engines in motor boats or automobiles will be displaced by energy derived from atomic processes. But the application of atomic power will, we presume, prove possible for the purposes of certain industries; and also the radio active substances which were formed during the processes of atomic research offer possibilities for medical use to a greater extent than ever before.

That is why no one should deplore the discovery of the principle of atomic power. To the human race it is a wonderful thing that the tremendous energies stored up in the atom Nuclei can be set free. Such knowledge is always good—provided that mankind understands the problems that this new knowledge creates.

Each new technical advance seems always to have a Jekyll-Hyde personality. We can not think of any technical invention, which, besides the relief and comfort it

brought in man's every day life, did not also bring misery and unhappiness to many people. But in the majority of cases the good outweighs the bad.

Let us consider, for example, the machine age which caused unemployment for thousands of craftsmen and doomed their families to starvation. But our great modern mills now give employment to millions. Without the invention of dynamite, the railway tunnels which bring people and countries closer together could not have been built; nor could work in coal mines and quarries have been made easier and less dangerous. But at the same time, dynamite has become the basis of modern warfare with all its horrible possibilities of destruction.

Should we regret the development of machinery and the invention of dynamite because they are made to serve destructive as well as constructive ends in the land of mankind?

Many of us will answer no to this question, and that answer, together with the knowledge that only international co-operation and mutual good-will can ward off final catastrophe, is the reason that, given law and order as well as a new invention, we need not deplore the discovery of atomic power.

—Mary O'Shea, '49

HALEY

John Haley, a man who lived near home, had a unique ability as a story teller. Although he never used any half measures, and stretched the truth as far as he thought his listeners would go, he told the stories so well that he never lacked an audience. Of course no one believed his stories. In fact his name became a byword for one who drew the long bow. If anyone heard a story that did not seem plausible, he would say, "That's a Haley."

This man had a wonderful imagination. He told about storms he had encountered when sailing "round the Horn", shipwrecks he had suffered in the China Seas, and snakes he had killed in Africa. He told these tales amazingly well, so well, in fact, that people who heard him for the first time would not believe that he could not read, or had never been off the Island. He had a large number of stories, all wild and unbelievable, but he never made the unpardonable error of making them better at each retelling.

He used to go to some neighbor's house every evening to swap yarns. When the yarns were ghost stories, as often happened, he would tell his so realistically that he