

東大過去問 1972年 第1問 (要約)

次の文は英国の物理学者が米国の科学界を視察した際の感想である。その趣旨を80字から100字までの範囲の日本語で書け。ただし句読点も字数に数える。

What the American scientist has, above all, is energy and activity. He is not a shy and unsociable person hidden in the dim corners of a dusty cellar. Not infrequently you will find him crossing the continent by jet plane, giving lectures 1,000 miles from home, or meeting hundreds of others at a conference. There are always people coming and going, ceaselessly discussing the latest experiment or theory, arguing in front of a blackboard or over cups of coffee. There is a thick web of communication so that everyone knows what everyone else is doing, and every bit of scientific knowledge spreads rapidly from one laboratory to another. Of course, all this is extremely valuable, and some people, original, quick-witted, fluent in thought and word, thrive in this atmosphere. Yet I think it has its dangers. Scientific work is not easy, and a really deep idea is unlikely to come in the hour or so that one may spend talking with a particular person on a particular topic. An atmosphere of intellectual bustle is not favourable to quiet concentration, to unhurried experiments, to brooding over a single problem. There is always the temptation to jump on the latest band wagon, instead of making a thorough study of a narrow field. And I am afraid originality seems sometimes to be emphasized too much in America, and is often not easily distinguishable from superficial brilliance.

(注) ・ to jump on the band wagon: to join in what is likely to be a fashionable movement