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SCIENTIFIC METHOD IN RELATION TO EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE CONFLICTS

By A. B. WOLFE

SCIENTIFIC method means simply arriving at conclusions from facts—an adequate array of pertinent facts logically analyzed. The scientist is the man from Missouri; he is skeptical and dispassionate. You have to “show” him by facts, incontrovertible, observed facts; and your inferences from facts have to be logically high test. He is not easily cajoled; he is like the cat in Kipling’s *Just So Stories*—“I am the cat that walks by his lone and all things are alike to me.” A perfect scientist, if you could find one, would be devoid of personal interest. Even the jungle cat, who was a very superior being, you remember, fell for the warm milk and the fire in the cave. The actual scientist, in his own field at least, is always on his guard against his own personal equation—his temperamental biases, his economic and social interests, his predilections for his own hypotheses, and the deficiencies of his own cultural background. And if he is not sufficiently on his guard against bias, inaccuracy, and inadequacy, his fellows have no qualms in showing him up. But perfect objectivity, total release from subjective interests and biases, is humanly impossible.

THE SCIENTIFIC ATTITUDE

The scientific attitude is the attitude of one governed by ascertained fact and logical inference or generalization from facts, and not by sentiment, esthetic belief, dogma, personal attachments, or class loyalties. Attain to the scientific