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THESE biographical essays describe the evolution of an agricultural economist. Alsberg's career never broke away from his past. Each stage in his life's journey made its contribution and moved him toward the next stage. His intellectual frontier moved from the natural to the social sciences; from pharmacology to biochemistry, on to the specialized chemistry of foods and then to the economic and social problems of the food supply, until he found himself accepted as an agricultural economist, his spurs having been earned by 40 years of contributory related experience. As he recognized no barriers in the flow of knowledge, his interests naturally extended into the field of international scientific cooperation. Science to him was a tool for universal application. As Kroeber remarks, "he forged into leadership through sheer weight of ability."

Each of these five essays was prepared by the person best fitted to throw light on one aspect of Alsberg's career and each makes its distinct contribution to the portrait of the growing, broadening man and yet they are all of one piece. Carl Alsberg looked the same to his many friends. Each saw a unique segment of the whole life but all of the segments dovetailed perfectly into a total mosaic, or complete man.

The contributors are Alfred L. Kroeber, anthropologist and life-long friend, Donald Van Slyke, brother chemist, Fred B. Linton, his one-time administrative assistant, Robert D. Calkins, economist colleague who witnessed the actual shift into the social science domain, and John B. Condliffe, co-worker in international relations pioneering. In a foreword Joseph S. Davis, colleague Director in the Food Research Institute, and architect of this volume, tells how the book was designed to share an "intimate knowledge of this extraordinary man." Each writes with the affection and respect that fellow scholars hold for a master of his field.

The spirit of Alsberg is partially captured by incidents described in these five vignettes but none presents the man and his methods of work so well as two short essays by Alsberg himself, which are happily included to round out the portrait. The first, "What the Social Scientist Can Learn from the Natural Scientist," was given before a

scientific group in 1931. The second, a commencement address at Reed College in 1938, has no title; it could be called "My Testament of Faith" for in it Alsberg attempted to impart to the coming generation the lessons from his life's rich experience. It breathes the spirit of tolerance—the spirit of the true scientist. It is Alsberg almost in the flesh, and it reflects his absorbing interest in young people as the hope of the future.

Rather than attempt to re-tell the story of this life and to assess its significant contributions, so well done in this brief volume, the reviewer refers to Alsberg's point of view as a research administrator and scientist as this may be of peculiar interest to agricultural economists.

As a research administrator Alsberg early learned that "You cannot buy research." He advised, "Never assign a man to do a research job unless he has a twinkle in his eye and wants to do it more than anything else." Moreover, he was an advocate of inductive research in both the natural and the social sciences. He expressed his position in these words, "I am convinced that in any science the accumulation of facts is of first importance . . . when the time is right, because of an adequate accumulation of facts, the general unifying principle is sure to occur at about the same time to a number of persons."

This led him to hold with respect to the social sciences that there was "too much integration, too little differentiation; too much spinning of hypothetical theories without regard to their verifiability; too little spade work in digging out facts. If in the social sciences, and especially in economics, more attention were devoted to the recording of what seem important facts and to the analysis of their significance, I am confident we should not need to worry about theory." This line of reasoning led Alsberg to suggest that there be "less writing of books and more publication of brief communications."

This is a good note on which to close this brief review. The authors of this little volume prove Alsberg's point that "with an adequate accumulation of facts, theory very soon becomes obvious to any first class mind." In this case, the facts here portrayed well present the theory of the man.

Joseph G. Knapp