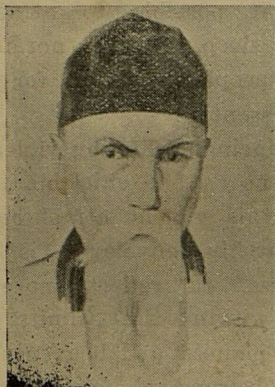


PROPHECIES: (DIARY LEAVES)

BY PROF. NICHOLAS de ROERICH

“WITHIN a hundred years' time Mars and Venus will be inhabited.”
Such a “scientific” prophecy was not long



PROF. N. de ROERICH

ago given out by the newspapers. We copy this literally as we read it:

A two-hour working day, abolishment of senility and in its place one's entire life spent as if in the interval from the 22nd to the 35th year, the delivery of water to Mars and likewise the provision of oxygen to Venus will make them habitable. Such prophecies for the next century have been made by an American chemical society on the occasion of celebrating an anniversary in that country.

Ten thousand scholars were present at this celebration.

These forecasts were put forth by Dr. Thomas Midgely, Chemist and Vice-President of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation.

Dr. Midgely says that within a hundred years will be exterminated the causes of colds, influenza, tuberculosis, probably cancer and many other maladies which are now regarded as dangerous.

In the synthetic house of the future century you will discard bed-clothing as needless, heat your apartment instantly by merely pressing a button, throw your soiled pyjamas in the trash bin because the products of cellulose will be so cheap that it will not be worth while to launder them.

Indigestion of the stomach will be made unknown with the discovery of definite hormones, and the taking of a single pellet will give relief from all unpleasantnesses.

Sleep will be undisturbed and bad dreams will disappear. There will be sleeping tablets which produce only pleasant slumbers, or tablets of another sort which rid one of the need of sleep in general.

The engineering profession expects from the chemist such a fuel as will relieve it of considerations which have hitherto handicapped it. The continuance of such a fuel will make possible inter-planetary communication.

Gasoline, explosives, and other materials will undergo no such a reformation that a new supply of energy must be found, perhaps in radio-activity.

I do not wish to create the impression that inter-planetary communication will immediately become accessible to everyone. Many preparations are necessary for this. Mars needs water, Venus a new atmosphere, all this requires the labors of future chemists and engineers.

The world will be more healthful. Better health which will be found will enable such conditions of life and of intellectual occupations to develop, that scientific problems at present insoluble will find their solution in a single day.

Age will be under complete control; the possibility will be found for each one to bespeak interminably long life by being free from casualties and by maintaining it on nearly the same level. Life can be prolonged as if approximately between the ages of 22 and 35.

Agriculture will be made an exact science by means of powerful fertilizers and synthetic hormones for producing the harvest. This will also signify a far larger and quicker meat supply. Chickens will grow to the size of pigs, pigs to the size of cattle, and cattle will attain the stature of mastodons, but in order to accomplish such growth, their feeling will not have to be any more than at the present time.

Once again we are ashamed to say that these forecasts are taken from a scientific report published in the newspapers. Many alluring prophecies lead to particular speculations. Thus, for example, a scholar, who knows that more vitamins are contained in vegetables than in meat, embodies in his report something presumably far more attractive to himself, precisely the monstrous growing of poultry as large as swine. Likewise ludicrous is the fact that the scholar is concerned about bringing Mars and Venus into the earthly conditions of habitability. For some reason he limits his thinking in wishing to reduce the other planets to the conditions of the Earth, perhaps the least of their sisters.

Very likely it has more than once occurred to the scholar that while he is

dreaming of subjecting the other planets to the earthly conditions, the beings who dwell on the other planets are at the same time probably thinking about how to bestow their best conditions on the Earth. Will it not be self-conceit to assume that the inhabitants of the other planets must go about in earthly coats and caps? Is it possible for the grandeur of the horizon to invoke thoughts full of earthly self-conceit?

Indeed, it would be beautiful if the prophecies of the learned chemist relative to the eradication of earthly maladies were fulfilled within a hundred years. Of course, what could be better. But unfortunately it is not for one chemist along with the engineering profession to succeed in this direction. True prophylaxis will consist not in the swallowing of chemical tablets, but first of all in improvement of the health conditions of the mode of life. It is possible to swallow all sorts of tablets and still vegetate in extraordinarily filthy conditions.

Surely all earthly dwellers will welcome the forecasts of the learned scholar, if in them shall be allotted place for spiritual development, if there shall be appreciated the great psychic energy which in the last analysis is more powerful than any chemical tablets. One might ask, why great age for people, why outwardly remaining in an age of less than 35 years, if from childhood they shall be spiritually old? Why should people exert force upon their great gift of health-giving sleep, fastening to themselves violent dreams, as do opium-eaters? Of course, all morphine and hormone addicts and similar narcotists and drunkards also, instead of leading a healthy thoughtful life, try to lead

themselves by compulsion into an illusory state. Right now all the governments of the world are beginning to grapple with the evil of narcomania. Consequently not by means of tablets acting by violence but precisely by a healthy way of life is it possible to attain healthy heartening sleep. Surely not for terrible dreams do people sleep, but for something far more essential.

The producing of life by violence is just as monstrous as are chickens the size of pigs. In this violent attachment of self to the earthly envelopes is expressed unwillingness to reflect more broadly, precisely within the limits of those countless planets and heavenly bodies to which the learned chemist would like to betake himself, probably clothed for such a triumphal journey not in a jacket but in formal evening dress.

It is thought that the time has already passed when any one could be dreaming merely about crudely material solutions. True, there have been such days when the severed head of a dog, under the influence of special currents, began to bark, and the miscreants who contrived this announced that death had been conquered. Such conquerors of death show first of all that they themselves are much afraid of so-called death and that they limit their thinking by the earthly vehicles.

If people would oftener glance at the boundless horizon and reflect about the relationship of the Earth with infinity, they would not be meditating about chemical tablets alone. The power of thought, the might of psychic energy indicates to them entirely different paths on which they will not need artificial dreams and visions.