

PROGRESS

 { Top of Head } = Meaning in MIND
 = My mind  = Your mind
 $\neq$  means
 My mind is different (not equal) to your mind
 Mind evaluations cannot be measured
 Minds may change from day to day—
 argument about Mind evaluations may
 be endless, agreement impossible
 DISTINCTION BETWEEN FACTS AND IDEAS IS
 PLAINLY SHOWN IN BLISSYMBOL WRITING:—
 = man (fact)  = idea of 'good' (positive evaluation)  = idea of 'bad' (negative evaluation)

MEANING WITHOUT WORDS

The previous column told how Professor Dr B. G. Chisolm, famous psychiatrist and first Director-General of the U.N. World Health Organisation, called for the "re-education of mankind" in perceiving the falsehoods and misunderstandings which can be involved in communication by language. He diagnosed the chief cause of war as lack of such education.

It was then noted that a special symbol language called Semantography or Blissymbols, after its inventor C. K. Bliss, B.Sc., has been devised to meet this unique educational need — a language which permits only factual statements about measurable things which have a common existence for all men. Blissymbols can be read by all peoples irrespective of their national tongue.

An interesting fact is that this ideal has long been envisioned but never before realised. Over 300 years ago the mathematician-philosopher Leibnitz said: "Small symbols in the place of words, which would represent visible things by their outline . . . if introduced among us, without renouncing ordinary writing, would be giving thoughts less **absurd** and **verbal** than we now have." And at about the same time, famous thinker John Locke said: "All figurative applications of words are for nothing else but to insinuate wrong ideas, move the passions, mislead the judgment, and thus are perfect cheats!" Strong words. Blissymbols claim a unique distinction in that the writing is said to reveal immediately false reasoning and purely subjective judgments — the cause of most of mankind's troubles.

ELEMENTARY EXAMPLE

To take an elementary example: it is easy to create an unfavourable notion about a person or group by saying that "they go too far" — an ordinary speech expression that apparently means something, but WHAT? If the sentence were written in Blissymbols it would immediately become evident that in itself it has said **nothing**. "They" is not a list of particular persons, "go" does not describe particular actions, and "far" does not mark any boundary. How far is "far" and what is "too" far? "Far" is a word that might be accurately defined in **distance** but not in **behaviour**. Naturally, all this does not imply that such an expression has no meaning at all, but the symbol writing would constrain the communicator to put down the realities: What persons, What actions, What places, What times, etc. It is claimed to be capable of expressing all essential meanings for effective communication in the realms of commerce, industry and science.

This is achieved with about 100 basic symbol outlines and the system can be incorporated on the keys of a typewriter in addition to the normal alphabet. It is a concept that has vast implications for educational purposes and, as the inventor points out, it is a language literally of "Peace" because it contains none of the emotional and misleading elements of verbal language which create so much havoc. As intriguing evidence for this, Bliss submits that his studies in archeology show that pre-verbal and primitive-verbal man never killed his own kind, but from the period when language became the principal means of communication wars have been unceasing. The works of C. K. Bliss (who lives in Sweden) can be examined . . .



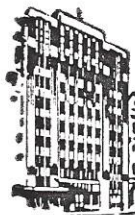
3 Articles written
by Mr. de Vere
for an Insurance Co.
(see below) which
appeared in the
Sydney Sun-Herald
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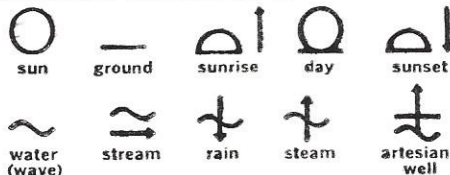
Words of all languages fall basically into 2 groups: words standing for—

(1) Physical THINGS. (2) Meanings in MIND.

Things can be physically defined and measured to settle disagreement

Mind evaluations cannot be measured therefore agreement may be impossible

EXAMPLES OF BLISSYMBOLS FOR PHYSICAL THINGS



PLAIN TALK

In 1963, the Progress series presented several articles about new moves then under way to simplify the teaching of and improve communication in the English language. These included revised versions of the alphabet, special phonetic alphabets and systems of reformed spelling. This section was followed by articles on a system of international symbol writing, the result of seven years intensive work by a man who has lived in Sydney since 1946, Mr C. K. Bliss, retired chemical engineer. The symbol writing is called Semantography or, more simply, Blissymbols, after the manner of the major shorthand methods which carry the names of their inventors, Pitman and Gregg. It was presented as a simple, practical method for achieving international communication because it would enable mutual understanding by writers and readers irrespective of their national languages. Naturally, it is not intended to replace normal text but for auxiliary use wherever absolutely clear understanding is essential between people.

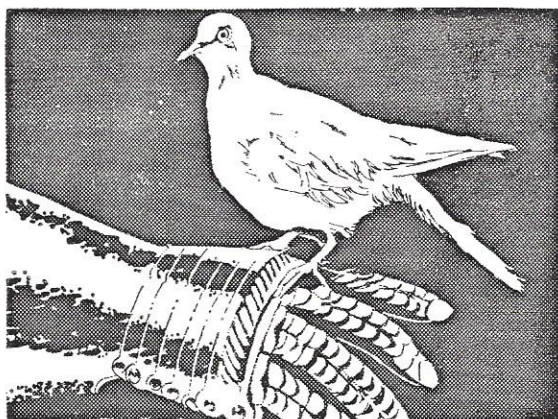
WORDS OF PEACE

The tremendous advantages of the principle are already exemplified in all forms of mathematics, the notations of chemistry, electronic circuitry and music, and the international flag codes. At a less universal level, Chinese ideograph character writing is understood by people whose spoken language may be entirely different, eg: Japanese. But until the development of Blissymbols, there has never been a completely international method of written communication for general and scientific use. When on March 14th last, "Progress" featured the work of unique national and international research departments investigating the possibility of developing a Science of Peace, the inventor of Blissymbols inquired if it would be possible for this column to make a statement to the effect that the Science of Peace is the whole and vital significance of the symbol writing—not just international communication. There are already two established "international" languages: Esperanto, devised specially for the purpose but adopted on only a relatively small scale to date, and English or Basic English, which partly because of its great expressive power has become the most widely used language on earth. There is really little need for another international language of a verbal kind.

SOME FAMOUS ADVOCATES

It should be noted that the System in question is not being taught commercially or promoted in the form of a course. Any publicity might then have been construed as advertisement. Such is not the case. The Blissymbol method has received high commendation from such outstanding world figures as Lord Bertrand Russell, Prof. Oliver L. Reiser, Sir Richard Paget, Sir Julian Huxley, Prof. Lancelot Hogben, and many others here and abroad. Prof. Dr B. G. Chisholm, world-famous psychiatrist and first Director-General of the United Nations World Health Organisation diagnosed the cause of war as resulting from man's most dangerous "disease," which is the failure to see through and find one's way in the blinding mental and emotional fog created by words. Words which seem to have tremendous importance, may in fact, be only Shakespeare's "sound and fury, signifying nothing," or worse—signifying positive falsehoods. He called for a "re-education of mankind," in perceiving the deadly pitfalls of language misused. (Continued next Sunday).

PROGRESS



A SCIENCE OF PEACE

Since the end of World War II, there have been more than 100 wars and national conflicts. So when, as in the month just passed, a treaty is signed banning all instruments of destruction from the seabeds and ocean floors, it earns a top position on the list of contributions to Progress. The treaty was signed by Australia, Britain, the U.S., the U.S.S.R. and 36 other countries. It was generally hailed by all participants as the first important step towards complete demilitarisation of the sea, and throws some new rays of hope on the work of a type of organisation whose existence may be unknown to many. They are organisations never before known to history. Their field of study is Peace Research, also referred to as the Science of Survival.

MAN ALONE.

The movement is headed by the International Peace Research Association. A review of a study by the secretary general of this organisation, Bert V. A. Roling, was published by the UNESCO Courier in November, 1970, from which the following information is extracted. The science of survival necessarily involves the study of war—not how it is waged but why it has happened. Peace researchers call this aspect of their study "polemology" from the Greek word for war "polemos." Natural science is able to tell us that of all the forms of life on earth, man is the only one (with a minor exception) that engages in large-scale group fighting. Strangely enough, one of the basic reasons is not something buried in our evolutionary past but one which is exclusively human, i.e.: man is the only being on earth who can value his "principles" more than his life. It is thought that it might be possible to discover a general theory of conflict in relation to man which would enable predictions to be made and steps to be taken before the various critical points were reached—as can be done in other sciences.

PEACE NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE.

Some of the organisations are more concerned with studying the other side of the same coin—the nature of peace and what helps to maintain it. For example, what factors contribute to the successful federation of peoples of different cultures, such as exists in Switzerland. It is observed that there are two main states of "peace" between nations—negative peace which is simply the avoidance of war, and positive peace which involves mutual co-operation. The immediate concern is always negative peace with the hope that it can be turned into positive peace. There is almost no field of study which can be overlooked as unimportant in analysing peace and war—races, cultures, languages, economics, population pressures, geographical situations, natural resources, modes and standards of education, religion, national and international law and so on. One of the chief difficulties appears to be man's inbuilt resistance to any ideas of change. One survey revealed that 40 per cent of those interviewed had not altered their views over a period of 20 years, even in circumstances most favourable to changes of opinion. However, in the words of Mr Roling: "... in a situation where, I believe, peace can only be finally realised as a universal peace achieved by a universal culture, it is imperative that this common basis be established as soon as possible." This would certainly be the Science of sciences for the Progress of Man.