

36. On science and scientists

One of the causes of the great number of publications is the fact that when the researcher is in the point that he cannot see the forest because of the trees, he tries to get rid of this difficulty by counting the leaves.

(The Lancet, 1960)

Science is something fascinating: from a small investment in facts one can get huge dividends in conjectures.

(Mark Twain, Life on Mississippi, 1884)

The formulation of a problem is often more important than its solving, which, sometimes, requests only a little mathematical or experimental ability. To lay new problems, to open new possibilities, to look at the old problems under another angle, this requests a creative imagination and really makes science progress.

(A. Einstein, L. Infeld, The evolution of science)

The difference between the human being, as an intelligent being, and the computer, consists in the fact that the human being makes the calculations exactly only when it is necessary.

(George C. Moisil)

The physics is not mathematics, in the same way the mathematics is not physics. The nature chooses only a subgroup of very beautiful, complex, well-interwoven mathematics that the mathematician develops and that subgroup is exactly what the theorist physicist tries to look at.

(B. N. Yang)

Us the physicists, feel the urge to plunge in the structure of the matter in order to discover the supreme laws which governs the matter and its properties. What happens is that we discover new phenomena all the time. We have not succeeded yet to discover new forms of nature behavior, what is, may be, a success such as wonderful; in fact it is the most wonderful and even romantic, because the more we plunge into the matter the more the nature gets stranger.

(V. Weiskopf)