Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/258987874

Downloaded on Jan 1, 2021

A. N. M.

STATISTICS IN SYMBOLS

Dr. Neurath's Method

Dr. Otto Neurath, the director of the Vienna Mundaneum, an institution for the preparation of pictorial statistics, is at present in Manchester on a lecture tour explaining the principles and the application of his method. His aim, he explained to a "Manchester Guardian" reporter, is to make complicated statements of fact easily intelligible to ordinary people, an aim which he pursues by the use of pictorial symbols. Thus in a chart to represent the incidence of unemployment among trade unionists in England are simple black-coated figures, each of which represents one unemployed out of 100 trade unionsts. Other charts represent the production, consumption, and destruction of coffee, the comparative length of the working day in Great Britain and Germany, and the effect of rationalisation on employment.

Dr. Neurath explained that his method was devised in the first place to explain the housing policy of the Austrian Garden City Movement, of which he was secretary on its establishment after the war. He had had considerable experience of adult educational work, and realised that pictures can grip a tired man's mind as figures or words cannot do. He therefore devoted much time to the evolution of suitable pictures to tell statistical stories. His work grew, and his pictures are now largely used by trade unions, by schools, and by municipalities throughout Austria.

The Social and Economic Museum in Vienna, established by the municipality and under the control of Dr. Neurath, is the headquarters of this work, while the Mundaneum undertakes the provision of these pictorial diagrams internationally. When "Isostat," the Russian Institute of Pictorial Statistics, was formed the Mundaneum supplied instructors in its methods. These organisations employ a full-time staff of experts devising symbols—there are now over 1,000 standard symbols listed in an international dictionary—and preparing charts. In England the Mundaneum has a correspondent at the office of the World Association for Adult Education in London, and Dr. Neurath's present visit to this country is in the hope of making its work more widely known and used.

LORD RIDLEY FINED

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com