

### **Not by bread alone [4]**

The elucidation of isolated phenomena and processes is for many scientists the only goal. This was not the case for Francé the universalist thinker, the philosophical biologist. He wanted to determine the ultimate value of research.

Man does not live by bread alone, he decided. Scientific knowledge is no less essential than food, clothing or shelter, but it must be made generally comprehensible and brought into relationship with practical necessities. He encouraged his readers to enlist their "knowledge of the design of the natural and human world and its laws as a constant companion and advisor"[1]. Naive, poorly informed individuals are, after all, easily victimized, and they make decisions that have dire if not fatal consequences, for example concerning health matters or partnership problems.

Today, as in Francé's time, narrow specialization is the surest way to academic success. Francé chose to depart from this straight and narrow path for the greater benefit of mankind. That is one of the many reasons why he deserves to be remembered and to be honored.

[1] Francé, Raoul H., *"Der Weg zu mir"*, Alfred Kröner Verlag, Leipzig 1927

[2] Francé R.H.: *"Das Edaphon"*, München 1913, new impression: Franckh'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart 1959

[3] Francé R.H.: *"Die technischen Leistungen der Pflanzen"*, Veit&Co., Leipzig 1919

[4] Francé R.H.: *"Das Buch des Lebens"*, Ullstein Verlag, Berlin 1924

[5] Francé R.H.: *"Die Pflanze als Erfinder"*, Kosmos Verlag, Stuttgart 1920