

published 6 times per year, is very informative on the subject of science education and of the efforts of creationists to influence public education. Some of the articles and letters in it are written with reserve, but others are outspokenly antagonistic against the Bible and against the influence of Christianity in our society.

IV. CONCLUSION

Thus we all are having to learn "hard lessons" at the hands of our unbelieving colleagues. This seems to be because creationist leaders have consistently refused to be taught by their Bible-believing brethren who, ever since the 1960's, have been trying to persuade them not to overlook the scientific data and biblical language which give evidence of great age. If we had known how destructive the results of this failure would be, I am sure that all of us would have been even more concerned to forestall the present blackening of our name and reputation. The present creationism movement badly needs to face the searching question, "Was the belief in a very young earth really worth sacrificing the opportunities which are now out of our reach?" Most of the Bible-believing, conservative scholars who have opposed evolution during the past 100 years, and who founded most of the theologically conservative Bible colleges and seminaries of the U. S. and Canada, have not regarded belief in a young earth to be a necessary part of Christian doctrine. We have absolutely no authority for saying that Christians have an obligation to defend this view; it is only a matter of personal preference. So, asking the question, "Was it worth sacrificing the opportunities?" is appropriate. It seems very apparent that the young-earth part of creationism's teaching gave precisely the advantage which the anti-creationism movement needed for launching its program; and now at the beginning of the 1990's the young-earth leaders' refusal to recognize data regarding age is still the most effective and common weapon employed against creation teaching. As a result, the creation message of the young-earth creationists now influences almost nobody except active members of certain conservative churches. The rest of the nation has no confidence in them. Furthermore, great numbers of evangelical Christians have now been thrown into a harmful state of confusion regarding what the Bible actually teaches concerning creation. The time is long overdue for young-earth creationists to put their creation doctrine on a sound scientific and Biblical basis. If this were to be done, ←perhaps some confidence in traditional, conservative creation doctrine could eventually be rebuilt.