

F-11. Science education in Aldous Huxley's tropical island of Pala

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Huxley saw grave defects in the current aims of education. There was a total neglect of practical experience in many areas, including recognition of the student's individuality; training for 'actualization'; training of the imagination, intuition; training in nonverbal experience and spiritual experience; relating together separate pieces of knowledge into wholes. In his final novel, *Island: a novel* (1962), whose locale is a small tropical island called Pala, situated in the Indian Ocean between Sri Lanka and Sumatra, the content and methods of education were designed to meet these aims. The content of science education included, from elementary school, the concept of chance and **probability**; **ecology**, "*that all living is relationship, and teach the science of relationship in conjunction with the ethics of relationship*"; a prime emphasis on the **life sciences**; **bilingualism** - Palanese and English. In secondary school it further included, **applied science**, such as plant breeding; **muscular activity** systematically cultivated; **scientific temper**; distinguishing between **symbols and reality**. **Individuality** was taken into account by suitable groupings of students; every child was tested at age 5 years to determine the type of personality to which he/she belongs.

There was **bridge-building** from one subject to another; **practical psychology**; **real life experience** including the witnessing of human birth and death. **Sensations** were consciously and deliberately experienced.