number might gather enough courage to continue their fight and to welcome the new science for whatever use it may have. Moreover, Futurology can rely on the adventurers of the mind, on the species of man who wants to learn for the joy of knowing and whose only purpose is to widen the area of human comprehension. This group, admittedly not numerous, consists of individuals who will fearlessly sail to new shores regardless of what they may find there.

II

In our days we do not have to go far for predictions and prophecies. They range all the way from Drew Pearson's Sunday night "exclusive", warning us that the Communists will invade Tibet the next morning to a prognostication by the Holy Father who expects great mass migrations from more densely to more sparsely settled areas in the next fifty years. Instead of consulting the stars or the coffeepot, we may get more valuable clues from journalists and scholars, statisticians and psychiatrists, business services and research institutes. Reactionaries, conservatives, liberals, radicals or fascists now tell us ever more often not only what they think ought to happen, but also what they hold will occur. The New York Times may well declare with all the pomposity which only this publication can display that "this newspaper has always believed strongly in the adage that prediction is the most gratuitous form of human folly, and it has no present intention of abandoning that creed". It is contradicted not only by the contents of its own columns, but also by the equally dignified Atlantic Monthly, which dares assess The Shape of Things to Come by presenting the reader with "as thorough a preview of the world five or ten years hence as a lively editorial research... can produce". Indeed, the number of articles or books dealing with one or another aspect of the future is on the increase, and it is perhaps only a question of time before a serious periodical will devote all its space to a scholarly investigation of the possibilities and probabilities of tomorrow.

We cannot possibly deal with all the various types of forecast, or discuss all the methods that are already being used. Let us concentrate on a few striking examples from each of the main spheres in which the future looms large. In our very personal lives forecasts play a significant role. Not only does the housewife plan the meals for the next day or week, not only do we anticipate a trip in the coming summer vacation, we also foresee the purchase of a car or a home within a year or two. Parents provide for, and young people receive, an education to prepare for a job they hope to hold years hence. Couples insure against their old age or the death of the bread-winner by putting money aside and investing it in savings bonds, life insurance or stocks. The title of Donald S.