

## よく観察せよ！

Julian Huxley (1887-1937), *An Introduction to Science*, 1931

行方昭夫『読解力をきたえる英語名文 30』岩波ジュニア新書 2022

There is a story of a professor of medicine who was giving his first lesson to young men who were going to be doctors. He said to them that if they wanted to become good doctors there were two things most important for them: one was to observe well and carefully, and the other was not to be disgusted at unpleasant things. In front of him was a bowl of dirty dishwater, with an offensive smell, and he went on to say that, to test them, he was going to put a finger first in the water and then in his mouth, and that he wanted them all to do after him exactly what he did. Accordingly he dipped in a finger, and then put a finger in his mouth. In spite of the unpleasantness of the water, the students came up one by one, and put a finger in the water and then in the mouth, bearing the very unpleasant taste as best as they could. At the end of it all the professor said, "I must congratulate you, gentlemen, on all having one of the qualities necessary, but one alone. You do not let horrible things disgust you, but unfortunately, you do not observe carefully, or you

would have noticed that, whereas I put my second finger in the water, it was the third finger that I put in my mouth.