It can be stated, then, that skepticism is necessary to intelligent thinking. A questioning spirit is highly important in today's world in order for man to make any definite progress. However, as with all aids to thinking, skepticism must not be carried to an extreme. Radical skepticism serves no purpose in clear thinking; rather, it hinders logical contemplation simply by maintaining that real thought is impossible. Man must have a definite starting point in his skepticism before it can be of worth to him in his thinking processes. As a technique, then, skepticism is priceless; as a doctrine, it has little merit in itself. The wise man is one who makes broad use of skepticism at times when it can be truly helpful to him; the foolish man is one who feels that he must be skeptical about every facet of life. Once something has been proved beyond a doubt in one's mind by means of objective and moderate skepticism its validity should cease to be questioned, and it should then become a part of that person's individual beliefs, and thus a part of his character. Extreme skepticism, obviously, would add nothing to one's character, as he would have no definite beliefs of his own and would ultimately become nothing but a confused, doubting being. Skepticism, then, is vital to both rational thinking and character development, and thus should be utilized by all who seek a broader concept of reality.

A MUSICIAN'S PRAYER

Lord, let me be a Note
On the musical Staff of Life.
Strong and full, with a slight edge,
so as not to be dull.
Yet never so sharp with the tensions of
life that I rasp . . .
But rather let me pierce that I may
inspire my fellow man,
Awakening those who sleep who are not
aware
Of the prejudices that exist among all
men.
Let me trip across the page as an eighth
note
And when the Score finally ends, let me
stride boldly off in a great Crescendo.
Leaving the rafters ringing, and my
black and white footprints upon the
hearts and minds of all listeners
When I approach the Great Conductor.

STEPHEN LIPKEN