

# Charles Francis Richter

## Quotes

*Science, Earthquakes, Men, Nature, Knowledge, Life, Spring, Fall, Country,  
Fun, Confusion, Today, Routine, Children, Fool, Vibrations, Long, Motivation,  
Rain, Plot*

The usual designation of the magnitude scale to my name does less than justice to the great part that Dr. Gutenberg played in extending the scale to apply to earthquakes in all parts of the world.

~Charles Francis Richter

Nothing is less predictable than the development of an active scientific field.

~Charles Francis Richter

Don't wait for extraordinary circumstance to do good; try to use ordinary situations.

~Charles Francis Richter

As seismologists gained more experience from earthquake records, it became obvious that the problem could not be reduced to a single peak acceleration. In fact, a full frequency of vibrations occurs.

~Charles Francis Richter

Only fools, liars, and charlatans predict earthquakes

~Charles Francis Richter

The rose does not bloom without thorns. True, but would that the thorns did not outlive the rose.

~Charles Francis Richter

Spring makes everything young again except man.

~Charles Francis Richter

Refining is inevitable in science when you have made measurements of a phenomenon for a long period of time.

~Charles Francis Richter

I was lucky because logarithmic plots are a device of the devil.

~Charles Francis Richter

If one introduces the concept of energy of an earthquake then that is a theoretically derived quantity.

~Charles Francis Richter

I would walk - not run - to the nearest seismograph.

~Charles Francis Richter

My main point today is that usually one gets what one expects, but very rarely in the way one expected it.

~Charles Francis Richter

Remembrance is the only paradise out of which we cannot be driven away.

~Charles Francis Richter

In every area of the world where there is earthquake risk, there are still many buildings of this type; it is very frustrating to try to get rid of them.

~Charles Francis Richter

There is nothing more beautiful than cheerfulness in an old face, and among country people it is always a sign of a well-regulated life.

~Charles Francis Richter

If the assumptions used in calculating energy are changed, then this seriously affects the final result, even though the same body of data might be used.

~Charles Francis Richter

Lately there have been complaints that the use of the magnitude scale is confusing, or at least the reporting of magnitudes in the newspapers 'confuses the public.

~Charles Francis Richter

It is a common remark that men talk most who think least; just as frogs

cease their quacking when a light is brought to the water-side.

~Charles Francis Richter

it is good to have measured myself, to recognize my limitations.

~Charles Francis Richter

No joy in nature is so sublimely affecting as the joy of a mother at the good fortune of a child.

~Charles Francis Richter

The laboratory routine, which involves a great deal of measurement, filing, and tabulation, is either my lifeline or my chief handicap, I hardly know which.

~Charles Francis Richter

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