SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

*ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.**

THE time-honored custom of our Association makes it incumbent upon the retiring President to deliver an address upon some subject connected, if possible, with his own work, and not purely elementary or historical, but with at least some fresh ideas and some new facts. The task is a difficult one for a chemist, for there is perhaps no branch of science in which, of late years, there has been so much mental activity, and it is hard to find any subject which has not been worn threadbare in discussion.

Trusting to your indulgence, I will here present some theoretical points connected in part with my own work, and will treat them as briefly as the nature of the subjects will permit.

All chemists are familiar with the terms atom and molecule. The use of these two words, with a clear conception of their meaning, forms an era in the history of the science. Our modern chemistry is built up of atoms and molecules, as we now define them. Our modern physics deals for the most part and, as I think, too exclusively with atoms, except, perhaps, in the case of what we now term physical chemistry, the new branch of science, which makes it difficult for us to determine where chemistry

*Delivered before the Boston meeting, August 22, 1898.