

SCIENCE

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THE JUBILEE OF THE COAL TAR COLOR INDUSTRY.

THE INFLUENCE OF SIR WILLIAM HENRY PERKIN'S DISCOVERY UPON OUR SCIENCE.¹

I NEED hardly assure you how highly honored I feel to be permitted to speak here to-night. Yet I am fully aware that the committee did not select me because it considered me the most competent of our chemists to respond to this subject, but because so many of our colleagues refused to be heard, fearing the arduous labor of condensing this vast material within the limits of a fifteen-minute address, when fifteen hours could be devoted to it with much less difficulty and work. With me, however, it was a labor of love, and I accepted with pride and pleasure, inspired by the wonderful development of this industry in which I have been an attentive watcher and a modest coworker, it being just twenty years since, in collaboration with Professor Bernthsen, I began the investigations which finally culminated in the discovery of the constitution of the dyestuffs of the safranine series. Above all, I have been inspired in my task by the genial personality and refined modesty of our distinguished guest, Sir William Henry Perkin, with whom I had the pleasure of becoming more intimately acquainted during last year's meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry in London. It must be a sincere source of congratula-

¹Given at the banquet given to Sir William Henry Perkin, at Delmonico's, New York City, October 6, 1906.