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CHEMICAL POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE¹

WHEN we enter the profession of chemistry our chief interest is centered on the conditions that obtain in the various fields of chemical activity. In the case of those who retain their youth by contact with student life, that interest does not lessen.

Frequent inquiries covering a broad scope are made by students and recent graduates in chemistry, and teachers, to whom they naturally turn for advice, are constantly asking for material that will enable them to supply this information. Inquiries made at the Department of Agriculture regarding opportunities for chemical work are mainly from students who are nearing the completion of their college course, or from teachers who are directing the studies of others. Often the inquiry relates to the character of work which the student should undertake in order to fit himself for a position in the department. Unfortunately the information is rarely sought with a view to increasing the equipment of men who have received broad fundamental training. The purpose is usually to substitute for a portion of a regular course in chemistry, some special study that will afford a temporary advantage.

I offer these inquiries as my apology for discussing in a few minutes a subject that would require a volume for its adequate treatment. It is my purpose to

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