

SCIENCE

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THE UNTILLED FIELD OF CHEMISTRY¹

Two years ago, upon a similar occasion, it was my privilege to address many of you and to point out some of the relationships existing between the chemist and the community. In so doing, there naturally devolved upon me the pleasant duty of recalling to your minds a few of the great and more significant achievements of members of our profession by way of indicating, although briefly and most inadequately, something of the extent to which the chemist has already placed the community in his debt. It is good for any body of men, animated by a common purpose, to take, from time to time, mental stock of what they have accomplished and of the relation in which they really stand to their environment. Where, as in our own case, the record is one of which we all may well be proud, its contemplation brings a new sense of the dignity of the work itself, a pride of fellowship and an incentive to increased endeavor.

We move, however, in a world where it is easy to take much for granted, where symbols and conventions quickly come to take the place of the realities they represent. Our mental processes are apt to run along the line of least resistance and the apparent and the obvious obscure the fundamental truths. This being so, we can well afford to leave our achievements in the security of the past while we consider for the moment the things we have left undone.

The volume of chemical literature has become so great, so many compounds have

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ Address of chairman of the Division of Industrial Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Baltimore, December 29, 1908.