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THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF APPLIED CHEMISTRY

THE history of the origin and development of the international congresses of applied chemistry has, fortunately, been the theme of the chairman's address this evening. The living chain which has connected these congresses has been the distinguished scientists who have filled the offices of honorary and acting president and one other—Dr. Strohmer, of Vienna. This has provided sufficient cohesion and has resulted in congresses of steadily increasing importance, although the rules are few and simple and the membership of each congress terminates with the congress itself. The seventh, held in London during June of last year, was the largest in point of attendance. While the hospitality showered upon the delegates by public officials and private friends was exceedingly lavish, the actual scientific work of the congress was very important, as will be seen when the transactions have been published and distributed.

While chemical science is progressing in all directions with extreme rapidity, there is little doubt in my mind that the holding of these congresses as frequently as every three years is unwise. I hope the eighth congress will decide to change the period of holding future congresses so that the interval will be five years. The labor connected with the preparation and holding of the congresses and subsequent editing and production of the volumes of transactions is enormous, and the expense is very considerable for such moderately rewarded men as most chemists unfortunately are. I am glad to say that our German friends