

ished it will contain fire-proof apartments for the great reference library which it is hoped will be collected, and to which I trust any surplus arising from the expenses of the congress will be devoted.

The congress will be upon us in less than two years. All of these preparations will have to be made in the meantime, and the officers and committee of the congress are looking with entire confidence to the membership of this society for such active and earnest support as will make the eighth congress greater than any which has preceded it.

WILLIAM H. NICHOLS

*THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND  
THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CON-  
GRESS OF APPLIED CHEMISTRY*

FIRST of all permit me to present the thought to your minds that the utility of the eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry will be judged, determined and measured largely by the printed record of its deliberations and conclusions. The position that the eighth congress will occupy in the series of international congresses will also be judged largely by that printed record.

It is essential that the printed record shall truthfully and accurately reflect the activities of the eighth congress.

That these activities of the congress shall properly and completely represent the then condition of applied chemistry over the whole world is perhaps the main task of the eighth congress.

That the then conditions of applied chemistry in the United States be correctly reflected and portrayed in those activities must be the object of particular solicitude on the part of all American chemists and in particular of the American Chemical Society and that this may be accomplished it is necessary that everything pertaining

to applied chemistry in the United States which can be properly reported at that congress should be so reported.

The American Chemical Society and all of its sections and divisions should therefore assist greatly in making the eighth congress a proper measure of the condition of applied chemistry in the United States in 1912. It can also assist materially in the making up of the printed record, which is to present in permanent form for use and for reference the activities of this congress, so that these may be properly recorded and one of the principal objects of the eighth congress may be achieved.

The American Chemical Society, through its executive officers, has already taken great interest in the advancement of the congress, and they have cheerfully given valuable help. The American Chemical Society with its membership of more than fifty-one hundred members, its nine divisions and its thirty-four local sections constitutes a most powerful instrument by means of which American chemists can get hold of much, if not all, of the material which is properly presented to such a congress. If the local sections and if the divisions of the American Chemical Society and all of their members will make it a special point to search through their respective divisions and their respective sections for material whose communication to the congress would aid in bringing before that congress a correct idea of what the chemists of the United States are doing for the furtherance of applied chemistry, not in general terms, but in as concrete statements as conditions will permit, then the American Chemical Society can feel that whatever that printed record may show it certainly and correctly reflects the then status of applied chemistry in the United States. In this manner effective means will have been used fully to represent all

the industries and all the geographical divisions of the United States.

It is, of course, impossible for those charged with the responsibility of organization and conduct of this congress to have personal knowledge of the developments along all the lines of applied chemistry that are being followed in the United States. That is true also of the presidents, vice-presidents and the members of committees having in charge the various sections of the congress; it is likewise true of the officers of the American Chemical Society and its divisions and its sections, and in the last analysis it is the individual member of the American Chemical Society who must carefully search his mind and his surroundings and ascertain whether or not there is something, no matter how small, which would be material to a correct reflection of the actual condition of applied chemistry in the United States and to report the same so that it may be properly considered.

In the short history of the organizing committee of the eighth congress there has occurred a most laudable instance of interest in the welfare of the congress, and this instance is a movement on the part of those chemists of the United States who are interested in fats and oils directed towards having that particular branch of applied chemistry properly represented at the congress. Letters have been received from upwards of forty different individuals from all over the eastern half of the United States requesting the formation of such a section, and this interest lends substantial ground to the expectation that each one of these more than thirty individuals will constitute himself an aggressive committee of one in securing a correct reflection of the condition of that industry in the United States for incorporation into the permanent printed record of the congress. This

example of enthusiasm and interest on the part of the fat and oil men ought to be a further spur, if such further spur be needed, to all other chemists in the United States having interests in common.

Therefore, such groups of chemists in the United States, and particularly such as are members of the American Chemical Society, should make it a special point to see to it that everything that could contribute to a correct representation of that particular industry at the eighth international congress is properly brought forward.

Let the metallurgists, let the mining chemists, let all the chemists interested in the manufacture of heavy chemicals, and those interested in the manufacture of fine chemicals and all the chemists of every other distinctive group of common interest come together and see to it that their interests are properly placed before the committees of the congress having their interests in charge. If any group of chemists finds that provision is not made for correct representation of its interest at the congress, let it do as the fat and oil men are doing and bring that to the attention of those charged with the conduct and organization of the congress, and if such provision be not made let the responsibility for such failure to provide be placed squarely where it belongs.

The same thing is equally true of the local sections of the American Chemical Society, representing, as they do, different geographical sections of the United States to see to it that the true state of applied chemistry in their particular sections of the country are properly and adequately represented. These sections will find it to the advantage of all to cooperate also with the official member now appointed, or to be appointed by the governors of each state, territory and insular possession to

the same end. If the local sections should also be available to the organizing committee of the eighth congress as sources of information to be supplied upon request of the organizing committee another source of usefulness and help will have been opened up and made available.

It is, of course, only natural that there will be some of us not in a position to do effective work along the lines above suggested, but in the direction of making the printed record correctly reflect the activities of the eighth congress there is a great deal that almost every one, of course, can do that will be of material assistance. This is particularly true of those of us residing in the neighborhood of New York City.

In order to facilitate the actual working of the congress and to enable it to do its vast amount of work with the least delay, friction and annoyance possible, and with the greatest possible accuracy and despatch we shall need a large number of interpreters who have considerable chemical knowledge. There are four official languages used in the proceedings and transactions of the congress, namely, English, French, German and Italian. It is reasonable to expect that the eighth congress will have at least twenty-five sections and subsections, and in each of these any one or all of these four languages will or may be used. It is obviously impossible to select American presidents and vice-presidents of sections and subsections whose command of all four languages is such as to enable them to conduct the meetings in each or all of the languages. It is desirable to have each section and subsection provided with chemists who would act as interpreters between the presiding officer and any of our foreign friends and guests when they do not speak a language in common. Those who act in that capacity would be rendering a great service to the congress by so doing, for we

all know the difficulties and the uncertainties encountered at such international gatherings in obtaining good interpreters at such times from the audience. To have in attendance chemists who would undertake such work of their own motion, we must all see, would greatly expedite the proceedings and would add to the accuracy of the secretarial reports of such meetings.

Further, at the information bureau we should have need of just such linguistic accomplishment and ability to enable our foreign friends to find expeditiously any section or department or committeeman of the congress.

If all who are capable of acting as such interpreters will make themselves known to the officers of the eighth congress, then these latter will have at their command the means and the material whereby and wherefrom they can create the best and most efficient body of interpreters the circumstances will permit.

Should the plan be carried out to have a bureau of information where men interested in specific branches of chemistry could make themselves known and thus meet others in the same branches, competent interpreters with chemical knowledge would be of almost invaluable assistance and would become all the more necessary.

The experience that young men in particular would gain by acting as such interpreters would almost certainly more than balance the time and effort expended and would present to them in concrete and actual form the diversity of chemical interests and the ramifications of chemical industry.

Further, should it be feasible to print the papers in advance of the convening of the congress, we should need a large number of proof-readers and in this work, tedious and arduous as it is, chemical knowledge on the part of those doing that

work would add beyond measure to its speed and accuracy. It must be borne in mind that the great delay in publishing the printed record will be in having proof promptly read, and we must spare no trouble to secure prompt proof-reading. This is especially true of the daily bulletin and the minutes of the daily meetings of the various sections and subsections.

Further, there are among the members of the American Chemical Society many who have attended numerous national and international congresses and meetings. Let each such communicate to the officers of the eighth congress what he regards as improvements upon other meetings, and how they might be realized in the eighth congress, or what departures the eighth congress should make from other congresses and other similar gatherings.

There are also many members of the American Chemical Society who are not directly connected with any local section, but who are, nevertheless, in position to make valuable suggestions and to get information for the organizing committee relating to their localities upon request. Such members, by making themselves known to the organizing committee, and setting forth the particular lines along which they are particularly well fitted to obtain information, will thus be making a substantial contribution to the means available to the congress for its proper and complete organization and conduct.

I have endeavored to point out in the foregoing, as specifically as circumstances will now permit, the various and different ways in which the American Chemical Society and its individual members can further the objects of the congress and can cooperate with the organizing committee. It is most desirable that it should be clearly understood and realized by every chemist in the United States that the eighth con-

gress is being organized with the view, among others, towards correct, complete and full representation of every chemical interest in the United States and of the chemical interests of all the geographical divisions of the United States. In order that the congress may be so organized it is needful that its organizing committee be as fully informed as can be, and kept so, and to this end it is the individual chemist acting through the American Chemical Society or one of its sections or divisions, or by direct communication with the organizing committee, who must perform the work. The receipt of every suggestion offered to the organizing committee will be promptly acknowledged and each and every such suggestion will be filed away and taken up for full consideration at the proper time and by the proper committee or officer, and will not be neglected. The fact that the actual holding of the congress is now almost two years off should not deter any one from at once offering his information and suggestion or volunteering his services, whether as a source of information for a certain locality or as any other aid. A postal card notice will be sufficient. The more promptly the organizing committee is fully and completely informed as to what it has to provide and as to the individuals, societies and groups of men upon whom it can count and what each can or will do, the more expeditiously can that committee proceed with its work and the more closely will it approach to the complete realization of the objects and purposes of the congress.

B. C. HESSE

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*THE PROBLEMS OF THE AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY*

PRESIDENT SCHURMAN'S annual report for the year closing September 30, 1910, is characterized by a discussion of the pres-