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THE TEACHING OF CHEMISTRY IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES¹

THE collection of statistics is very difficult. One special difficulty in connection with the subject which I have selected is due to the number and kinds of courses in the American agricultural college. This paper will be confined to two phases of chemistry in the agricultural college, viz., (1) the chemical instruction which is given to those who are preparing for agriculture, and (2) the opportunities afforded in these institutions for the preparation of students for careers in agricultural chemistry. With this purpose in mind we must omit all consideration of the various engineering courses in these institutions. We must omit from consideration also the various short agricultural courses and the courses in the agricultural colleges for negroes, as the chemical work in both cases is generally below the usual college grade and the consideration of either would of itself furnish sufficient material for a paper. These exclusions leave us the agricultural and the chemical courses. We shall first consider the four-year agricultural course. There are complications even here on account of the large number of electives which in effect give us several courses, such as in general agriculture, agronomy, horticulture, forestry, dairying, veterinary science, domestic economy, botany, etc. As we can not discuss all of these, the matter which we have collected is from one four-year course in each agri-

¹ Presidential address before the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. Read at the twenty-seventh annual meeting in Washington, D. C., November 11, 1910.