

SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH IN AMERICA¹

GERMANY has long been recognized as preeminently the country of organized research. The spirit of research is there imminent throughout the entire social structure. This is not the time nor place, however, nor is it necessary before this audience, to refer in any detail to the long record of splendid achievement made by German research during the last fifty years. It is inscribed in luminous letters around the rock upon which Germany now stands secure among the nations of the world.

The virility and range of German research were never greater than they are to-day. Never before have the superb energy and calculated audacity of German technical directors and German financiers transformed so quickly and so surely the triumphs of the laboratory into industrial conquests. Never has the future held richer promise of orderly and sustained progress, and yet the preeminence of Germany in industrial research is by no means indefinitely assured. A new competitor is even now girding up his loins and training for the race, and that competitor is strangely enough the United States—that prodigal among nations, still justly stigmatized as the most wasteful, careless and improvident of them all.

To one at all familiar with the disdain of scientific teaching which has characterized our industry, and which still persists in many quarters, this statement is so contrary to the current estimate that its general acceptance can not be expected. It will

¹ Presidential address at the forty-eighth meeting of the American Chemical Society, Rochester, N. Y.