

SCIENCE

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APPLIED CHEMISTRY¹

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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.

It is only three years ago that a Brooklyn alderman, who, in the absence of the mayor of New York, had to welcome the visitors to the International Congress of Chemistry, addressed them as if they were druggists or pharmacists.

After all, he made not a much greater mistake than many so-called educated men who obtained a B.A. and yet are ignorant enough of elementary scientific knowledge to imagine that the main occupation of a chemist is to analyze substances and detect falsifications.

Even in England, a pharmacist is currently designated as "chemist," while a real chemist is called an "analytical chemist."

But the European war has done much to correct some of these mistaken notions of the public at large. Our daily press has now more or less acquainted this country with the fact that in our national make-up there is such a thing as chemical problems. I doubt, however, whether the unthinking masses have begun to realize that aside of the so-called chemical industry, practically every other industry, in fact, every enterprise, has chemical questions to contend with, and that chemical industry itself is intimately interwoven with the great network of every modern industrial or agricultural state; that the economic welfare of our country and the health of its citizens are largely dependent on the way we utilize our chemical knowledge.

The present war has been aptly called a "chemical war," because efficient work of

¹ An address presented at the meeting of the American Chemical Society, Seattle, Wash.