

# SCIENCE

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## SOME RELATIONSHIPS OF CHEMISTRY AND LIFE<sup>1</sup>

ABOUT the middle of last century Huxley and his co-workers clearly recognized the place of science in education, and the relation of both to life, and urged upon the world the necessity of scientific knowledge. Meanwhile, the schools and colleges have tried the experiment and have been convinced, but it has taken the present war with its terrible toll of death and destruction to focus the attention of the masses in a way which a century of reasoning has failed to do. This is not the place to discuss either of these experiences in detail, and I shall content myself by giving the conclusions of one competent witness who has watched the entire progress of the experiment.

After more than fifty years of continuous study of the education problem, Ex-President Eliot, of Harvard, concludes that the present generation is characterized by two strong desires. The first is a desire for a sound knowledge of the facts, and the second is an intense desire to be of service to mankind. If these conclusions are well founded, education must provide for their realization if it is to be successful in the broadest sense. This program, of course, is but another way of stating the scriptural text, "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." For the purpose of this address no better text could be found, for these words sum up as clearly as can be done the place of the scientific method in the learning process, and the relation of science to life as a whole.

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered on the occasion of the dedication of the chemical laboratory of the University of Oklahoma, January 26, 1917.