years can still be received up to the date of publication.

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QUOTATIONS

THE NEW CHEMISTRY

THE service, at once scientific and humanitarian, of Dr. Charles Baskerville, who died last week, is illustrative of what the science of chemistry is undertaking for the alleviation of human suffering. Dr. Baskerville's special researches had to do with the causes and prevention of occupational diseases and with the purifying of ether as an anesthetic. These are, however, but suggestive of the innumerable researches in which his brother chemists of every land in this new age of their science are seeking not only to heighten industrial productivity, but to promote and conserve the health and strength of human bodies.

During the war, when it became necessary to use poison gas to fight poison gas, the ablest American research chemists were called to the country's defense. The recent action of the Washington conference gives hope that choking and wasting vapors will not again sweep over fields or stain the skies, and that such another service as these chemists were called upon to give will never again be asked of a benign science that will now have freedom to devote its entire attention to benefiting men, women and children.

That this is more than a vague, visionary hope is intimated by the recent report of a committee of the American Chemical Society, under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles H. Herty. It is a clarion summoning of the chemists to come to the battle against disease. In the war the development of means of defense was not left to haphazard discoveries by isolated chemists. The best-trained workers in systematic research were brought together and were kept in daily—almost hourly—conference, where they were joined by pharmacologists and experimental pathologists, until the problems upon which the fate of nations depended were solved. But while war claimed its sacrifice in millions of lives, "disease each year claims its tens of millions." The new problems give this science a more urgent, poignant call. And the committee, contemplating the ravage of disease, puts this question: "Can we not bring to these problems the same methods so successfully employed in the solution of the means of making war?"

Several centuries ago the chemist and the physician cooperated. Then they separated, the chemist turning toward industrial production. Now it is being realized that, though the bacteriologists and pathologists have accomplished wonders, they have "definitely reached a point where they must turn to the chemists for the solution of many of their most important problems." Not only are the chemists' medicaments needed for the cure or alleviation of certain specific diseases, but their advice is needed as to the acceleration or retardation of chemical reactions that take place in the body. The myriad battles with avoidable or preventable disease there go daily on. The lesson of the war intimates what victories may be expected in these battles from the cooperation, under ideal conditions of time and research, on the part of those whose science touches these very issues of life.

Dr. Baskerville, not only by his own researches, but also and especially by developing and equipping what was perhaps the best series of chemical laboratories in the United States and by organizing a department which has given tuition to hundreds of young men for service in this science, made his lasting contribution, though his studies and researches and teaching here are over. It will be remembered, however, that but a few weeks before his death, after years of intimate study of the atom, he said that "there is something that cannot be explained on a purely materialistic hypothesis." So the quest goes on.—The New York *Times*.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

A CONVENIENT METHOD OF DETERMINING THE BRIGHTNESS OF LUMINESCENCE

HAVING recently had occasion to measure the brightness of various fluorescent substances I tried out for this purpose an optical pyrometer.