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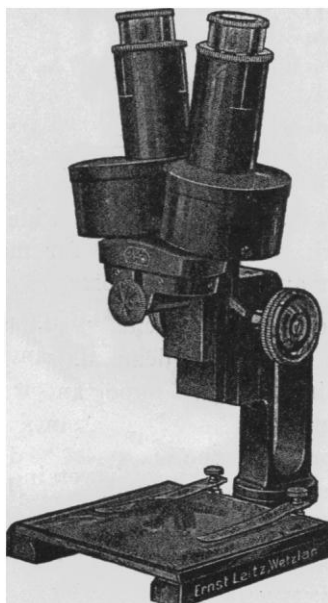
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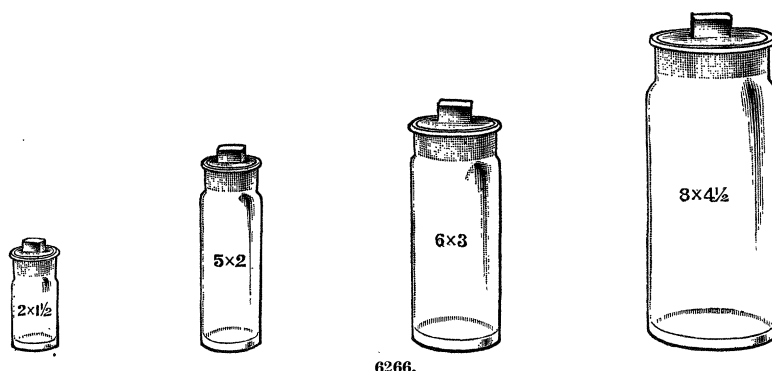
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SCIENCE

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal.

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter July 18, 1923, at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

REFLECTIONS OF A CHEMIST¹

ANTHROPOLOGISTS divide the era of human existence into ages according to the material of the implements used during a given period—the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Far be it from my thoughts to dispute the correctness of this classification, but it does seem a misrepresentation or a wrong characterization to continue the present, or even the preceding, century in the iron age. With the advent of the twentieth century, at the latest, the count of a new age begins. What shall be the name of this age? Your reply may well be anticipated—chemistry. Not your partiality or mine prompts this reply. It is the verdict of facts, for the advances from the stone to the bronze and from the bronze to the iron age are really the results of the progress of the art of chemistry.

The rôle chemistry is playing in the world affairs is too well known to require elaboration. In its broadest embrace—colloidal, catalytic, biological, therapeutic and what not—chemistry is the moving principle of this world of ours. It is nothing less than life and death! We all know the wonders chemistry has accomplished within the short space of time it has been given a systematic unprejudiced trial. These accomplishments and the potentialities of chemical science have also been well advertised, perhaps a little too much. The chemically untutored will expect too much and too soon, with resulting disappointment and reflection on the science and its followers.

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¹ Presidential address delivered at the seventy-fourth meeting of the American Chemical Society, Detroit, Mich., September 5 to 10, 1927.

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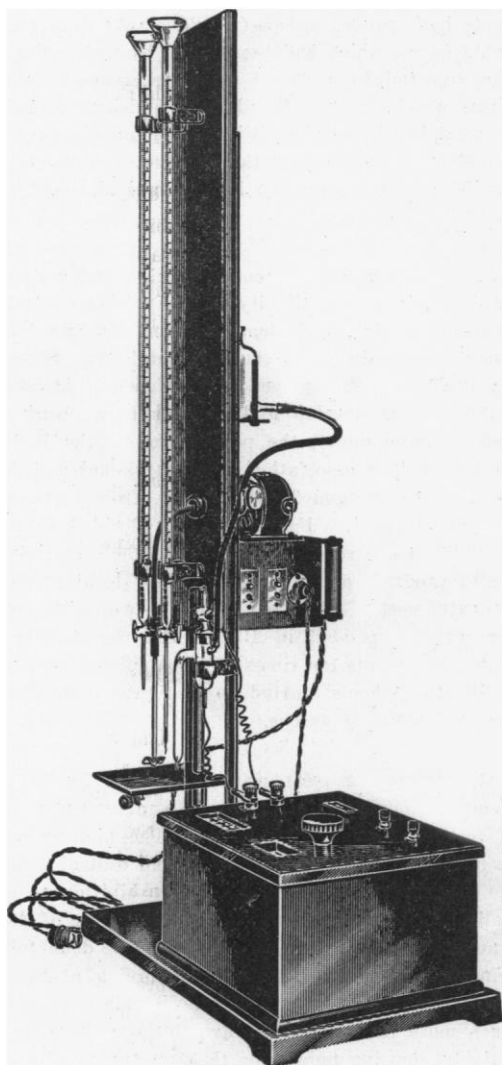
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