

# SCIENCE

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## CRAFTSMANSHIP AND SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

WHEN, nearly a century ago, the founders of our association drew up a statement of purposes and rules, they gave prominence to the words "to obtain more general attention for the objects of science." Since that time we have tried continuously to fulfil our self-imposed task, not, I hope, unwisely nor untactfully, nor without success. For this purpose we have on many occasions and in many ways endeavored to describe the progress of our researches, and to present the consequences of discoveries as they appeared to the discoverers. With your permission, I would like this evening to add something to the story. I would claim as my justification for doing so the fact that in the last few years scientific inquiry has advanced at a rate which to all is amazing, and to some is even alarming. On the one hand, the application of science to industry has become increasingly important and obvious, as was so clearly shown by our honored president of two years ago. Especially at the present time when our country is struggling to free itself from distress due partly to the war and partly to violent changes in economic conditions, is it of interest and importance to consider what science is doing and can do to accelerate recovery. On the other hand, in the less material realms the applications of recent research have aroused wide interest, as may be exemplified by the influence on philosophic thought of the new discoveries in physical science, or by the effect of last year's remarkable address from this chair.

I can not deal in the time allotted to me with all the issues that are suggested by these considerations. I propose to limit myself in a manner which my choice of title will suggest, and in speaking of "craftsmanship and science" to pay attention more particularly to the relations between science and craftsmanship of our own country. I shall not, however, be able to confine myself strictly within these limits because the entrance of science into our most material businesses can not be considered without reference to the part that science plays in the whole range of our thoughts and actions.

The term craftsmanship requires definition. I am supposing it to mean the skill which is exercised in the production of whatever is wanted for human wel-

<sup>1</sup> Address of the president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Glasgow, Scotland, September, 1928.

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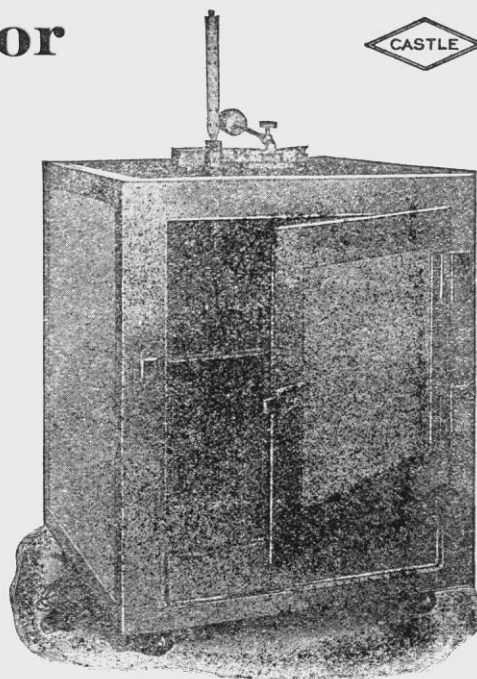
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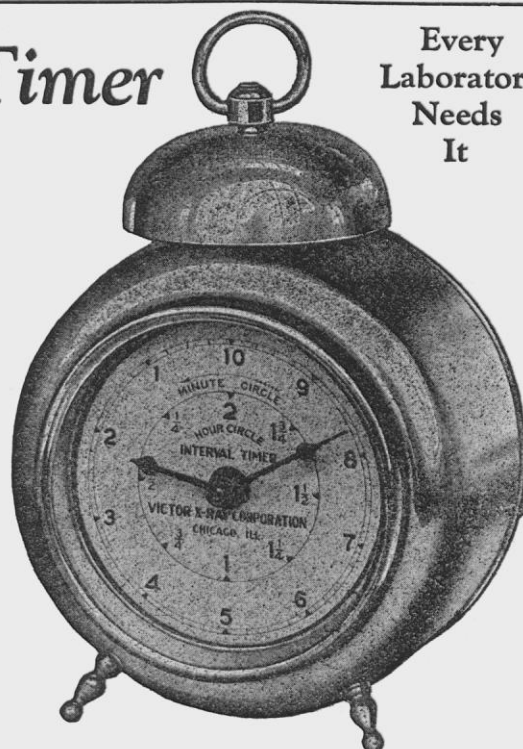
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