

SCIENCE

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THE COMMERCE OF CHEMISTRY¹

By J. N. TAYLOR

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I

A GLANCE at the pages of history will show the close relationship which chemistry has held with the advance of the human race. From earliest times, as evidenced by Biblical records, as well as by the monumental records of Egypt and the writings of Herodotus and Pliny, chemistry as an art played an important part in the life of ancient civilizations. Even as late as the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the alchemical system attained wide-spread favor, and, as in the ancient Egyptian temples, chemical laboratories were to be found in Christian monasteries.

The chemist in the past has been somewhat inclined, like his illustrious predecessor, the alchemist, to lock himself up in his laboratory and keep his secrets to

himself. In more recent years, however, he has come out into the light of day and now presents the results of his studies before meetings of our society and publishes his results in our journals.

Comment upon the retiring nature of the alchemists' successors, however, should not be taken in any sense as deifying the dispositions of our "fathers in chemistry" or deprecating their labors. None of us would think of criticizing the scientific habits of Boyle, Priestley or Bertholet; of Liebig, Kekule, Pasteur or of many of those who came after.

Many of these and other illustrious men did apply the results of their researches to practical ends, and the Industrial Revolution caused many industries to establish chemical laboratories at their own works. It was not until the trade associations came into being, however (particularly those forms of cooperative organization covering highly specialized fields), that capital may be said to have pooled its resources with

¹ An address delivered at Richmond, Virginia, May 2, 1930, before the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society.



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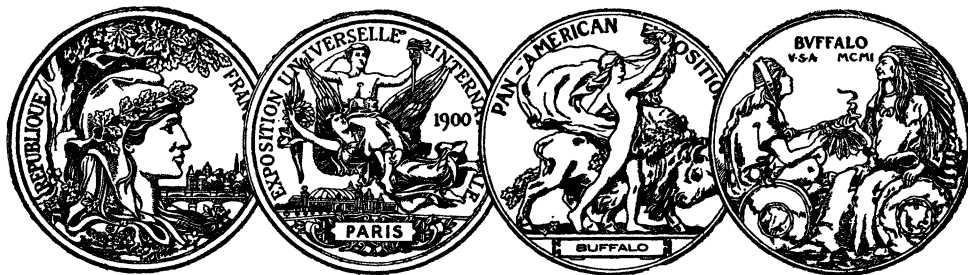
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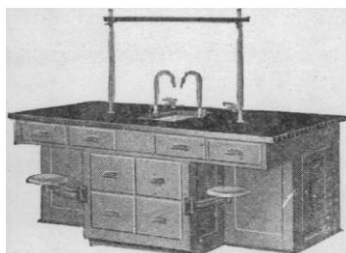


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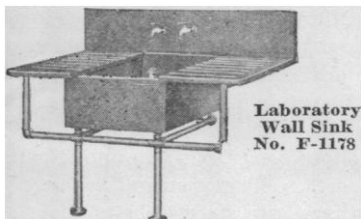
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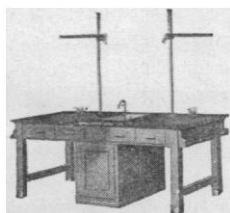
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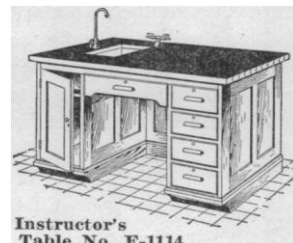
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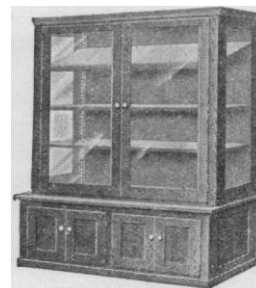
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