SCIENCE

VOL. 78 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1933 No. 2026

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.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN CHEMISTRY[1]

By Professor ARTHUR B. LAMB

DIRECTOR OF THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF HARVARD COLLEGE, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

WHOEVER considers the history of the past 100 years can not but conclude that its outstanding feature has been the progress of mankind in science, that is, in the ordered knowledge of the world about us. In agreement with this, Mr. Dawes and his able co-workers have made the scientific sections of this exposition of unexampled completeness and excellence. Never have the achievements of science been so adequately portrayed at any exposition. Never anywhere has such a galaxy of scientific exhibits been gathered together, as is housed in this brilliant Hall of Science where we are now assembled.

Three thousand of the 18,000 members of our American Chemical Society have convened this week in Chicago from every corner of our country, to present and to discuss the most recent results of their researches. At this evening meeting of our Society, within the confines of the Century of Progress Exposition, it is eminently fitting that the contributions of chemistry to the advance of science during the past one hundred years should be set forth. It is, then, all but inevitable that I should address you this evening on

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN CHEMISTRY

In 1833 chemistry was, so to speak, still in her swaddling clothes. Less than fifty years had elapsed since Priestley and Scheele had discovered oxygen and chlorine; since Volta had discovered how to produce electricity by chemical means; since Lavoisier had elucidated the age-old problem of the nature of fire, and since Dalton had demonstrated the existence of atoms and had shown how their relative weights could be ascertained.

In 1833, chemistry was a small and compact science.

[1] A popular address (The President's Address) delivered at an evening meeting of the American Chemical Society at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, September 14, 1933.