

# SCIENCE

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## SCIENTIFIC IDEALS<sup>1</sup>

By Dr. CHARLES L. REESE

THIS is the occasion on which your president makes his formal adieu to the society, as a whole, and makes ready for his successor, who, according to our custom, is already elected and waiting his time to take up his duties.

It has been my good fortune to serve the society in many capacities, during the last forty years, of both major and minor importance, within and without the direct activities of the society.

The object of all scientific work is the search for truth, requiring honesty of purpose, the enlargement of human knowledge and service for the benefit of mankind. These ideals, when properly instilled into the student, by the teacher, usually have the effect of stimulating honesty of character, which, I am glad to say, is characteristic of all scientists in general.

The search for truth, through a period of years,

<sup>1</sup> Presidential address delivered before the meeting of the American Chemical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, September 10, 1934.

fascinates the worker and he learns to love his subject, and consequently, he pursues it with ever-increasing vigor.

Up to recent years, the chemists, imbued with these ideals, preferred to enter the teaching profession, to secure the opportunity to continue fundamental research in the search for truth and the advancement of our science, to lead the ideal life, offered only by the academic atmosphere, and to follow a career of service, not only to science, but, to the rising generation, chemists, as well as man in general.

There is no more noble profession, in my mind, than that of a teacher, with its marvelous opportunities for character building and training the minds of the younger generation. But, in science, research must accompany teaching to prevent him from becoming a mere pedagogue—to keep his own mind from being relegated into that of a mere machine and from losing touch with the advance in his profession.

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## Three Important New Books

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