

It has been pointed out⁴ that the linking up of hydroxyl bonds explains the properties of the gels that are formed by neutral hydroxides.

These few examples may serve to show how improvements in the technique of x-ray analysis are sharpening a tool which has already been of assistance to research in many directions and now seems to be acquiring a new usefulness.

The chemist has already shown that the properties of the molecule depend on the internal disposition of its atoms. The characteristics of the solid state depend also on spatial relations, and in a manner which is even more complicated, much more complicated than in the case of the independent molecule. Accurate measurement of the spatial arrangements lays a firm foundation for the study of the properties of a substance in relation to its structure and its composition.

The problems to be solved are, of course, extremely complex, but it is surprising how much can be done towards the examination of intricate molecular associations when the spatial relations between the most commonly occurring atoms are known. This applies, for example, to the study of the proteins which has already gone far; to the clays, and to the glasses and other extended structures. At one time it seemed hopeless to expect to learn much of the structure of bodies which were so irregular as to give no sign of crystallinity. But it is now possible to work from the regularity in occurrence of a few definite separation distances, even when regularity in orientation does not exist: and methods have been devised by which these distances can be determined by the x-ray methods.

It is clear, I think, that the stereometry which the chemist has developed so successfully is acquiring new powers which will have the widest applications.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GERMANY AND THE NOBEL PRIZES

FOLLOWING the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Carl von Ossietzky, the German pacifist who was confined at the time in a concentration camp, Chancellor Adolf Hitler issued on January 30 a decree which reads:

In order to avert such shameful occurrences for all future time, I decree with this day the foundation of a German national prize for art and science.

This national prize shall be divided annually among three worthy Germans to the amount of 100,000 marks each.

Acceptance of a Nobel Prize is herewith forbidden to all Germans for all future time.

Executive orders will be issued by the Reich Minister for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda.

At the Propaganda Ministry it was emphasized that the prohibition applied not merely to the peace prize, but to all Nobel awards.

The New York Times prints in full the statement made to the Reichstag by its president, Colonel General Hermann Goering, which reads:

Ridiculous insults which proceed partly from rage and partly from the bad taste of others can neither offend nor shame Germany. They merely fall back on those from whom they come, and especially on those who always pride themselves on their special good breeding.

When we see attempts to insult Germany before the world by awarding a peace prize to a traitor, to a person punished with penal servitude, then such action does not shame Germany but merely makes those ridiculous who are responsible for it.

But because Germany will not tolerate such shameful

things in the future and does not want any dispute about them at all, the Fuehrer has created this day a national prize for art and science.

May the world realize from this that everything which it may undertake to insult the German people will always fall back on the other. It is, as the Fuehrer has repeatedly emphasized, a singular characteristic of present-day democracies to ignore facts and realities. But one must learn in time that the once torn and impotent Germany has been transformed into a proud, strong, honest, honor-loving, freedom-loving people—a people that has a right to be proud of its achievements before all nations, before history, before the future.

An Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm of the same date reports that Germany's ban on acceptance of Nobel Prizes by Germans will have no effect on the granting of awards by the Nobel committee. Professor Karl Manne Siegbahn, a committee member who won the prize for physics for 1924, asserted that the awards would be without regard for German laws, on the ground that no distinctions were possible between German and other scientists. However, whether payment is possible is a matter between the winner and his government.

A JOURNAL OF "PARAPSYCHOLOGY"

DUKE UNIVERSITY News Service has sent to SCIENCE the following release:

Establishment of a new scientific journal devoted to research in telepathy and clairvoyance has been announced by the Duke University Press. The journal will be called the *Journal of Parapsychology* and will be edited by Professor William McDougall and Dr. J. B. Rhine, with the assistance of Charles E. Stuart. It will be issued quarterly.

⁴ Fricke, *Koll. Z.*, vol. 69, p. 312, 1934.