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The Liquid State: PROFESSOR JOEL H. HILDEBRAND 125

Scientific Events:

The International Council of Scientific Unions; The Protection of Scientific Property; The Record-breaking Heat of July; The Mineral Research Program of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology; The University of California at Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi 133

Scientific Notes and News 136

Discussion:

Transformation of Bacteria: PROFESSOR T. D. A. COCKERELL. *Darwin's Views of Heredity*: PROFESSOR GEORGE M. ROBERTSON. *Terraces in the Susquehanna Valley below Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*: PROFESSOR J. HOOVER MACKIN. *A New Horizon for the Extinct Goose, Chendytes*: PROFESSOR LOYE MILLER. *Why Dandelions?*: EMMETT BENNETT. *Dr. Britton's Interest in Mining and Geology*: PROFESSOR THOMAS T. READ 139

Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:

Iodine-Potassium-Iodide as a Fixative and Differential Stain: DR. HAROLD T. COOK and BERNICE BRIGGS. *An Improved Method of Direct Smear*

Examination for Acid-fast Bacilli in Sputums: LUCY MISHULOW, MILDRED MELMAN and MARIE ROMANO. *An Over-complex Apparatus*: W. A. MCCUBBIN 142

Special Articles:

On a Selective Gametogenic Effect of Certain Hypophyseal Extracts: PROFESSOR HERBERT M. EVANS, DR. RICHARD I. PENCHARZ and DR. MIRIAM E. SIMPSON. *A New Type of Fever Agent*: DR. H. G. BARBOUR. *A Suggested Relationship between the Protoplasmic Bridges and Virus Diseases in Plants*: DRS. C. J. DRAKE, J. N. MARTIN and H. D. TATE 144

Science News 6

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THE LIQUID STATE¹

By Professor JOEL H. HILDEBRAND

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

IN the selection of the subject of this address I was, of course, tempted to appeal to an audience, composed as it is mainly of those who are not physical chemists, by a strong seasoning from some such field as economics or political science or philosophy, which all of us feel competent to discuss. I resisted this temptation, however, except in so far as the words of my title itself, "The Liquid State," may have served as a lure for some of you by suggesting a treatise on corporation finance or the wetness of the post-prohibition era. I must now confess that any such implication was a deception; that my topic has to do with physical chemistry and that the only

subsidiary implications I hope for are that my exposition may not prove too dry and that I shall be able to strike a happy mean between too much solid matter for a general audience, on the one hand, and a too gaseous attenuation for a scientific association, on the other.

I feel so bold as to count on a general interest in the topic itself because so large a proportion of natural phenomena occur in the liquid state. Any illumination I may be able to shed is likely to be helpful to workers in a number of fields other than chemistry. Moreover, all who are here can be assumed to possess that lively curiosity about natural phenomena which will guarantee an interest in a discussion involving so fundamental a subject as the nature and strength of intermolecular forces.

¹ Address by the retiring president of the Pacific Division, delivered on June 18 before a general session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Berkeley, California.

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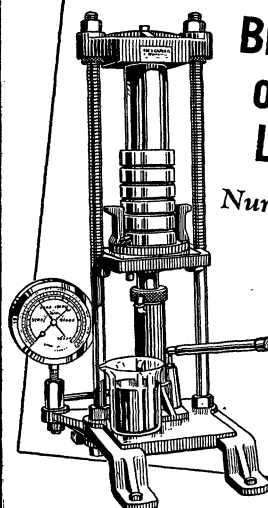
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