THE PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHEMICAL ANALYST

In his presidential address on "The Dignity of Analytical Work," delivered before the American Chemical Society in 1897, Dr. Charles B. Dudley directed attention to the claims which may be asserted in behalf of analytical chemistry as an important and dignified branch of chemical science, and the necessity for intelligent, careful work on the part of even the routine analyst. From a somewhat different standpoint, Dr. W. F. Hillebrand, of international reputation as an analyst, presented at the Philadelphia meeting of the Society, in 1904, a critical review entitled "Some Thoughts on the Present Conditions of Analytical Chemistry," which was based upon his experience as chairman of committees intrusted with the formulation of standard methods of analysis and the investigation of the causes for the remarkable variation in the results of different analysts examining a given sample of material. He sounded a definite and clear note of warning with respect to the prevalence of a lack of care and intelligence, and ascribed the conditions, in part at least, to faulty training in our educational institutions. Within the past month there has appeared an interesting brochure from the pen of Dr. Wilhelm Böttger, professor at the University of Leipzig, entitled "Der Stand und Wege der Analytischen Chemie," in which he criticizes the too empirical nature of much of the analytical

Read at a joint session of the American Chemical Society and Section C of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Washington, December 27, 1911.