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SURFACE STRUCTURE AND ATOM BUILDING

By Professor W. D. HARKINS
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

I. INTRODUCTION

I wish to express my great appreciation of the unexpected honor which is conferred upon me by the award of the Willard Gibbs medal, established through the generosity of William A. Converse, and bestowed by a jury chosen from the American Chemical Society. For many years Gibbs has been one of my heroes of science, and I am very proud to have my name associated with his in this way. As you know, he was the greatest of American chemists without being, in the technical sense, a chemist at all. The student of chemistry who shies at mathematics may well take this fact into account, for Gibbs at his desk discovered in a few years more concerning the relations of chemical phenomena than has been

1 The Willard Gibbs lecture delivered in connection with the award of the Willard Gibbs gold medal by the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society, May 25, 1928. Revised May 18, 1929.