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THE LIQUID STATE

By Professor JOEL H. HILDEBRAND

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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.