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A WORLD OF CHANGE¹

By Dr. EDWARD R. WEIDLEIN

MELLON INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, PITTSBURGH, PA.

THE most interesting address that I could deliver to our radio audience would be to pick out at random from this distinguished group of chemists individual persons and describe their work to illustrate the application of science which has transformed the world. Here are gathered scientists from all parts of the United States, as well as representatives from foreign countries, to exchange ideas, and in their presence it would not take one long to realize that something startlingly new and extremely important is happening in the world.

Their gathering is important, and every university, research organization and industry should be represented. Every chemist realizes that scientists stand upon the shoulders of their predecessors. It is for this reason that their gain is exceptionally rapid. A scientific principle once established becomes the prop-

erty of all science; a piece of apparatus once constructed becomes a pattern for later apparatus of the same kind.

These leaders in the fields of science are the real authors of history. Their work is having more fundamental effects than all the laws that have been enacted or all the armies that have ever marched in triumph. The benefits that flow from their achievements are not limited by race or creed or political boundaries or even by time. They provide physical comforts for all men and gradually free their bodies from disease and their minds from the terrors of superstitions. They give their fellow scientists enchanting new views into the regions they explore.

That this influence does not die with the individual is clearly illustrated by the life of Charles Frederick Chandler, whose one hundredth birthday will be celebrated at Columbia University in October. Dr. Chandler was one of the founders of the American

¹ Address of the president of the American Chemical Society, Rochester meeting, September 9, 1937.

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