In discussing any subject which deals with an extrapolation from the past to the future, one cannot make any certain or dogmatic statements. In the physical sciences extrapolations are very likely to be incorrect even when they involve only a small percentage of the region covered by reliable data unless a very fundamental theory of the phenomena based upon broad scientific evidence exists. Such conditions do not obtain with regard to my subject, and I can not risk more than the most general predictions in regard to the future. Moreover, these general predictions must be predicated upon several alternatives which are definitely beyond the control of chemists or scientists, and which are vital to their future.

It is necessary, in the first place, to consider the objectives of two groups of people. The first of these is the scientific group, and the second is the group consisting of the community as a whole. In neither case are the objectives exactly formulated, though it seems to me that those of the scientific group are more definite than those of the community in which we work. Of course, the objectives for all chemists or all scientists are not the same, but there is a very considerable agreement between these individuals. The people of the community, on the other hand, are swayed by so many emotions that these appear to be the most unpredictable quantity in the entire problem.

Scientific men are those who are posing particular questions to nature and its laws as they operate about us. In doing so they arrange most carefully devised experiments to test whether the ideas which they have in regard to the operation of natural law are in fact in accordance with these laws. If their postulates are not correct, the answer which they receive is an em-