

SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor. Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson N. Y.

THE REVIVAL OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.*

NOTHING can be more instructive to the student interested in the results of intellectual cross-fertilization than the effect of the recent fecundation of chemistry by physics. Through the application of physical methods and ideas to chemistry, the latter has given birth to a new branch of study, physical chemistry, which promises to produce as radical a change in our conceptions of molecular phenomena as did the overthrow of the phlogiston theory or the introduction of the conception of valency at a later period.

The attempt of Berthollet to introduce dynamical conceptions into chemistry, at the beginning of the century, fell on thorny ground, and from that day until very recent years the growth of chemistry, great as it has been, has been most remarkably one-sided. The Periodic Law has been discovered, many new elements have been found, new compounds without number have been prepared, the rules governing their formations and transformations have been ascertained, and even their microscopic anatomy has been studied to such an extent that for countless of them we have established formulas which express, schematically, the relative arrangement of the atoms in the molecule. In stereochemistry we have even gone so far as to be able to

*Annual address of the President of the Chemical Society of Washington, delivered March 30, 1899.