

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1901.

THE DIGNITY OF CHEMISTRY.*

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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.

CHEMISTRY as a profession may be said to have completed its hundredth year, and we have met to-night to celebrate the quarto-centennial of chemical organization in America.

In our democratic country, all attempts to create a class or caste should be discouraged, especially if the attempt be made to endow the class with unusual or special privileges. We have no place for an hereditary or purchasable aristocracy, but in the function of the civic body there must be specialization, and those individuals who by choice or fortuitous incident devote themselves to special duties are brought together by occupation, by congeniality and by desire for mutual helpfulness and improvement. In this mutual attraction we find the genesis of all trade and professional organization. The aggregate is always stronger than the segregate. This unity of purpose and this conformity of effort become reprehensible only when autocratic, imperative and insolent. The assumption of superior virtues, the assertion of peculiar privileges and the interference with the rights of others are never to be advocated nor condoned.

* An address delivered before the American Chemical Society, April 12, 1901, on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Society.

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