

# SCIENCE

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## SOME AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO TECHNICAL CHEMISTRY.\*

THE inventive genius of the American people is universally conceded. The necessity of accomplishing things quickly, incidental to the growth of a new country, such as ours, has naturally led to the invention of many forms of labor-saving machinery, and so with improved appliances have come improved methods. The technical chemist is, however, less fortunate than his brother in the professorial chair whose merits are made known by his students, thus attracting an ever-increasing following to his laboratory, and perhaps he is also less fortunate than his associate who devotes himself to research work; for to him are given medals and honorary memberships which are properly the 'blue ribbons' of science; hence it is that the discoveries of the technical chemist, especially where they are commercially meritorious, remain too frequently unknown, and the profits of the improvement go to swell the dividends of the corporation to which he owes his allegiance while he receives no public recognition. It naturally follows, therefore, that any summary of the achievements in the development of technical chemistry must be very incomplete.

To say when chemistry begins is not generally possible, for its origin wanders back into alchemy and pharmacy on the one side and into physics on the other, and there are no sharp lines of separation among the

\* An address delivered before the Congress of Arts and Science, St. Louis, September, 1904.

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