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THE USEFULNESS OF CHEMISTRY IN THE INDUSTRIES¹

ONE month ago I had the pleasure of addressing the University of Illinois section on the subject, "Chemistry and Industry." On that occasion I departed somewhat from the orthodox position of loyal chemists, which is that manufacturing industry could not long survive in the absence of chemists and a science of chemistry, and that manufacturing industry owes a large debt of gratitude, if not of worldly goods, to the chemical profession; and I endeavored to show how, long before a science of chemistry developed, a sufficient amount of chemical knowledge and a sufficient number of chemical facts were accumulated by the earliest civilizations of which we have a record, to enable them to establish and conduct chemical manufactures in a rather creditable manner. I felt it was necessary to emphasize this fact, which is frequently lost sight of in the pursuit of laboratory chemistry, in the interest of a fair understanding of the relationship between the science of chemistry, and manufacture, and in the interest of fair play, too, because I should not care to give chemistry more than its due.

There are, broadly considered, but two kinds of manufacture; one of them is concerned with those processes which change the form of matter only, mechanical manufacture, and includes such industries as the founding, metal-working, wood-working

¹ Address delivered before the Indianapolis Section of the American Chemical Society, March 20, 1908.

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