

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1915

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CHEMIST TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES¹

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

SINCE the outbreak of the European War, the American public has been led, adroitly or otherwise, to believe that industrial chemistry, that is, the industrial activity of the chemist, is limited to coal-tar dyes and that nothing should be regarded as industrial chemistry that does not deal with the manufacture of these dyes. Nothing could be further from the truth.

While it is true that the manufacture of coal-tar dyes forms an important branch of industrial chemistry, or of chemical industry, whichever you will, it by no means forms the whole of it or even a preponderating part of it.

From the economic point of view, economic effect and economic result is the measure to apply in determining economic importance and not the intellectual or scientific labor involved in the creation of that result.

From a strictly economic point of view coal-tar dyes can hardly be said to be vital or essential and by that I mean that we can get along without them and not suffer great hardship, personal or otherwise; anything of less need than that can hardly be called an economic necessity.

THE CHEMIST AND HIS WORK

The American public has seemingly given too little consideration to those industries of this country that make use of chemical knowledge and experience in the

¹ From the public address at the fiftieth meeting of the American Chemical Society, New Orleans, March 31 to April 3, 1915.

Science

41 (1062)

Science 41 (1062), 665-700.

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