

SCIENCE

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THE RELATION OF CHEMICAL LABORATORIES TO THE NATIONAL WELFARE¹

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FOR two years and a half the world has been in a ferment. On the basis of an incident which now seems trivial, the mutual jealousies and distrust of the nations of Europe precipitated a war in which the interests of all the nations of the world are involved. Those of us who think that our race is progressing toward better conditions can not but believe that there will grow out of this war some better method of settling differences between nations. The duel as a means of settling private quarrels has long since disappeared in England and America. It must surely cease as a means of settling quarrels between nations. It seems certain that the time will come when the world will look back to these years as a time of madness like the madness that drove men to the crusades of the middle ages.

With all the loss and waste and dreadful suffering of these years the nations of the world are learning some lessons which would not have been learned in times of peace. Russia has solved her liquor problem for the time being. Germany enforces a democratic equality in the distribution of food which is beyond the wildest dream of the socialists. Bread is distributed by cards and the wealthiest citizen can get no more than the day laborer. England has solved the problem of the unemployed—there is no longer a “submerged tenth” for whom conditions are utterly hopeless. One of my friends who has been in London with

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

¹ An address delivered at the dedication of the chemical laboratory of the University of Oklahoma, January 26, 1917.

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