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ORGANIZATION OF CHEMISTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

IN consultation with fellows of the institute who have solicited this address, I find an expectation that, since I have chanced to be associated with the beginnings of several of these organizations and participated at several of the critical stages in their development, I shall be somewhat reminiscent and the address more or less of the nature of a narrative. However, the topic assigned me covers a period much antecedent to my appearance in my present state of existence, but fortunately this field was carefully and completely covered by Dr. H. Carrington Bolton, noted historian and bibliographer of chemistry, lecturer on the history of chemistry at the George Washington University during the last decade of the nineteenth century, and, who, besides his monumental works on chemical bibliography, was author of that graphic story of alchemy and the alchemists, entitled, "The Follies of Science at the Court of Rudolph II."

Bolton presented the results of his researches at a meeting of the Washington Chemical Society on April 6, 1897, under the title, "Early American chemical societies,"² while at the 25th anniversary meeting of the American Society, he dealt with the "Chemical societies of the nineteenth century,"³ and thus supplied material for comparisons as to date of formation, rate of development, and the like, between domestic and foreign societies. In his first paper, Dr. Bolton records three societies, viz., the Chemical Society of Philadelphia, founded in 1792; the Columbian Chemical Society of Philadelphia, founded in 1811, and the Delaware Chemical and Geological Society, organized at Delhi, Delaware County, New York, September 6, 1821. The information Dr. Bolton was able to collect regarding these organizations was meager and his paper consists largely of brief biographical notes of members, showing chiefly that, at the time, such chemical activity and interest in chemistry as existed was largely confined to the medical profession. In conning these names, one notes that several of the more active of the members, like Dr. Robert Hare and Professor James Cutbush, have

¹ Address delivered April 6, 1925, at the annual banquet of the American Institute of Chemists.

² *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, Vol. 19, pp. 719-732 (1897).

³ Report of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the American Chemical Society, April 12 and 13, 1901. Supplement to *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, pp. 21-35 (1902). This list has been brought down to 1924, by E. Emmet Reid, on pp. 73-77 of his "Introduction to Organic Research."

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