SUGARS IN THE SERVICE OF CHEMISTRY

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Sugars are the most popular topic of chemical literature to-day. There must be a reason for it, and the question arises—What is it? The importance of carbohydrates in our daily life, the numerous uses made of them in our foodstuffs, in textiles, in building materials, in the many substitutes for the more costly natural products may sound like a logical answer to the question. Indeed, it may be claimed that the progress of civilization can be measured by the extent of the uses made of carbohydrates for constructive and destructive purposes. Yet the answer would be only partially correct. It would be hard to believe that men of the type of Scheele, Baeyer, Fischer and van't Hoff devoted themselves to the problems of sugar chemistry for reasons purely practical.

1 Delivered before the Chemical Society of Washington on the occasion of the award of the Hillebrand Prize to C. S. Hudson, March 26, 1931.