

# SCIENCE

VOL. 80

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1934

No. 2067

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

## THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.  
Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

## THE LIQUID STATE<sup>1</sup>

By Professor JOEL H. HILDEBRAND

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

IN the selection of the subject of this address I was, of course, tempted to appeal to an audience, composed as it is mainly of those who are not physical chemists, by a strong seasoning from some such field as economics or political science or philosophy, which all of us feel competent to discuss. I resisted this temptation, however, except in so far as the words of my title itself, "The Liquid State," may have served as a lure for some of you by suggesting a treatise on corporation finance or the wetness of the post-prohibition era. I must now confess that any such implication was a deception; that my topic has to do with physical chemistry and that the only

<sup>1</sup> Address by the retiring president of the Pacific Division, delivered on June 18 before a general session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Berkeley, California.

subsidiary implications I hope for are that my exposition may not prove too dry and that I shall be able to strike a happy mean between too much solid matter for a general audience, on the one hand, and a too gaseous attenuation for a scientific association, on the other.

I feel so bold as to count on a general interest in the topic itself because so large a proportion of natural phenomena occur in the liquid state. Any illumination I may be able to shed is likely to be helpful to workers in a number of fields other than chemistry. Moreover, all who are here can be assumed to possess that lively curiosity about natural phenomena which will guarantee an interest in a discussion involving so fundamental a subject as the nature and strength of intermolecular forces.

# Science

**80 (2067)**

*Science* **80** (2067), 6-146.

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