

SCIENCE

VOL. 90

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1939

No. 2323

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ORDER AND DISORDER IN PURE LIQUIDS AND SOLUTIONS¹

By Professor JOEL H. HILDEBRAND

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THE only fault I can find with an occasion such as this is its effect upon my character; I shall doubtless emerge shorn of every shred of modesty I may have possessed on arrival. You will hardly expect me, however, not to feel, and therefore to express, several sources of satisfaction. I am, of course, greatly honored, not only by the action of the Jury of Award, but also by the presence this evening of so many fellow chemists, former students and old friends. Again, my heart is warmed by the kind things that have been said of me by Dr. Harned and Dr. Eyring. Harned was my first research student, and we did together the first work published in this country on the use of the

¹ William H. Nichols Medal Address before the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, March 10, 1939.

hydrogen electrode to follow the course of a chemical reaction. I can claim only this credit for his subsequent notable scientific career that I did not spoil his natural instinct for research. As for Eyring, I claim a little credit for having helped to create the bracing atmosphere which he breathed as a graduate student in Berkeley and much more credit for having urged him to take the plunge into the liquid state which has resulted in his bringing up some brilliant results.

Further satisfaction is lent by the fact that the award of the Nichols medal is based upon having stimulated research. The problems involved in the theory of solubility are so numerous and complex that it became evident long ago that to catalyze their solution on a broad scale would be a finer achievement than to cultivate only a little of the large field which, years

Science

90 (2323)

Science **90** (2323), 1-22.

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