



Practical Chemistry

Lyman C. Newell

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PREFACE

A TEXTBOOK intended for the first year of chemistry should fulfil certain requirements. Both pupil and teacher must be considered. The pupil needs a book which is written plainly, illustrated fully, and applied practically; which stimulates interest in chemistry, and which can be studied profitably. The teacher needs a book in which the text is carefully selected, judiciously apportioned, and properly arranged; which provides teaching material, and which can be taught successfully. The author believes his Practical Chemistry meets these requirements.

The text includes the facts and principles suitable for beginners. No important topic has been omitted. The selection is varied, permitting the use of the book in different kinds of classes. The topics suggested by the College Entrance Examination Board and the Board of Regents (New York) have been incorporated.

The style and arrangement are clear — short sentences, brief paragraphs, explanatory examples, lettered subdivisions, numbered sections, instructive topical headings. Unusual care has been taken to write clearly such topics as symbols, formulas, equations, atomic weights, molecular weights, and valence.

The exercises, which are placed at the end of the chapters, have been prepared to meet the real needs of pupils. The author believes that a class should be drilled on fundamentals as well as provided with opportunities to answer test questions. Hence, numerous exercises have been provided for review, home study, practical experience, and themes. Teachers are urged to examine these exercises and assign those best adapted to the needs of the class. The list of books incorporated in the Appendix, § 5, will be serviceable in connection with home study and other assignments.

The problems emphasize fundamental principles and processes; many require original thinking. The liberal selection will meet the requirements of different kinds of classes.

An examination of the book will show that it is a Practical Chemistry — practical in several ways. The more vital applications of chemistry are described in connection with the appropriate facts or principles.

Moreover, the major applications of chemistry are so fully described and illustrated that a pupil can obtain from the book itself an accurate and adequate account of modern chemical indus-

tries. Teachers are referred to such topics as purification of water (69), nitric acid (196), sulphur (250), sulphuric acid (268, 270), fuel oil and gasolene (311, 312, Fig. 112), sodium silicate (387), glass (394), cast iron (490), steel (494, 495) and copper (528, Fig. 193). Certain features of this book should not be overlooked.

(i) The study of carbon is begun in Chapter III, thereby introducing a familiar element and its striking applications at the start. This element is reviewed (with extensions) in Chapter XXI, and its useful compounds are studied in Chapters XXII (Fuels and Illuminants), XXIII (Other Carbon Compounds), and XXIV (Food). No apology is offered for devoting so much space to carbon. It is a fundamental element, and the practical applications of this element and its compounds are indispensable and conspicuous.

(2) The portion of the text that deals with theory is thoroughly adequate. The material is strategically distributed among several chapters (VII, VIII, X, XV, XVI, XVII). This distribution, as well as the simple treatment, will make the theory of chemistry less formidable to beginners.

(3) Certain metals are treated rather fully and placed in the first part of the text devoted to metals. These are sodium, calcium, iron, aluminium, and copper (Chapters XXIX-XXXIII). By this arrangement the essential principles of metallurgy, the characteristics of metals, and the applications of metals and their compounds are available for study before the hurried work at the close of the year. ..

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