RESEARCHES ON CELLULOSE III (1905-1910)

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Researches on Cellulose III (1905-1910) by C. F. Cross & E. J. Bevan

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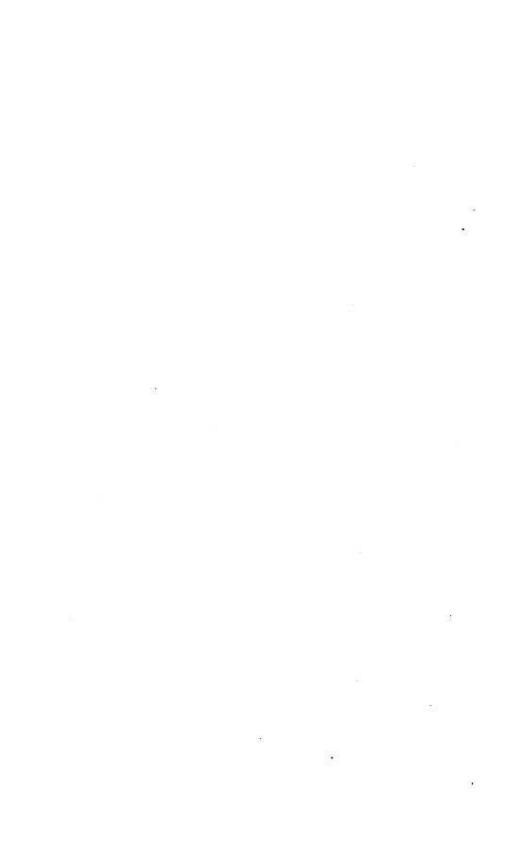
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PREFACE

For reasons stated in the text the plan of the present volume, No. III. of the series, is modified from that of the preceding. It is presented rather as a personal and impressionist view of progress in research in the field of 'Cellulose' for the period 1905-10. The preparation of the work has been delayed to include research work published in 1911.

In regard to the future, and the progress of research, it is clear to us that no chemist can approach the subject of 'Cellulose' in any comprehensive way without meeting with problems belonging to general philosophy.

On this broad platform of thought no writer, who claims to be a student, will presume to have any special insight: the reader, according to temperament, will either elect to live with such problems or accept the 'contracting out' attitude of those who find the fascination of investigation and discovery exclusively sufficient for the intellectual day.

We have ventured to deal with one or two questions of this order, which appear to be inevitable in the sense that they are invariably presented to young students in the formal textbooks of the science.

And it is only to the young student that we address ourselves in enjoining the duty of clear thinking, should he be interested in pursuing problems which belong to the general perspective of the science.

As to progress in the special sense, and any probable contribution resulting from research in the field of cellulose, we cannot ourselves avoid very positive anticipations of a much deeper knowledge of matter, as matter, to follow from the application of physical methods to the investigation of cellulose, its derivatives, and its analogues of the group of colloidal carbohydrates.

To this end we hope the present notes from one of the active centres of research may contribute.

We have to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. W. N. Bacon, B.Sc., in the correction of the proofs and the preparation of the index.

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