

**ELEMENTARY
INORGANIC
CHEMISTRY**

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Elementary inorganic chemistry by James Walker

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JAMES WALKER

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INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

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P R E F A C E

OF late years the teaching of Chemistry in schools has tended to assume more and more the character of "research work," each pupil "discovering" his own facts (with a little guidance), and also interpreting them in their mutual connections. This method is admittedly of great value in cultivating the pupil's powers of accurate observation and manipulation; but from the point of view of the student who proceeds to a College or University, there to continue the subject as part of a course in Science or Medicine, it leaves something to be desired. In even an elementary University course, the student is suddenly confronted by a bewildering multitude of details, which he must learn from his lecture-notes or a text-book, for now the limited time at his disposal for practical work makes it impossible for him to acquire his material on the leisurely school lines to which he has become accustomed.

This little volume has been written to help in bridging the gap here apparent. In it I have emphasised general principles, which shall enable the student to extend his first-hand laboratory knowledge in various directions, and to connect and correlate apparently isolated facts. No instructions for practical work are given, as any teacher can easily select from the many excellent manuals at his disposal those experiments which best typify the principles referred to.

Although I have written the book throughout from the point of view of modern theory (so that the student on pursuing his studies shall have as little as possible to unlearn), I have studiously placed theoretical matters in the background, for the reason that in my own experience the beginner does not appreciate their proper significance. The school is, in my opinion, no place for "chemical philosophy": that should only come at the end of an elementary University course, when the student has a good grip of the facts and principles, *i.e.* the realities, of Chemistry.

J. W.

November 1901.

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