



GILBERT NEWTON LEWIS

SYMPOSIUM ON COLOR AND THE ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE OF COMPLEX MOLECULES

DEDICATION

When the Executive Committee of the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry began its consideration of plans for a symposium dedicated to the memory of Gilbert Newton Lewis, it wished to choose a field in which he had won fame. The choice was difficult, because it was not to one field alone that Professor Lewis had directed his scientific interest but to many, and in each of them he had made discoveries and opened roads for further exploration. Physical chemists engaged in the study of thermodynamics regard him as one of the great in that field; the chemists working in the field of structural chemistry call him the father of the modern concept of the chemical bond; and those interested in isotopic research claim him as one of their pioneers because of his work with heavy water. These are a few on the long list of subjects enriched and clarified by his genius.

The Committee thought it fitting to select as the subject of the symposium the optical studies of complex molecules, including fluorescence and phosphorescence of dyes. That is the field in which Professor Lewis was engaged during his last years and even in the very last days of his life. A symposium in that field was the more suitable, since a similar one had been planned at a time when there was abundant hope that Professor Lewis himself would be able to participate in, lead, and inspire the discussion. Unfortunately, that plan could not be realized, but the resulting symposium showed again that whatever Lewis touched will bear the imprint of his great personality through the years to come.

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ORGANIZATION OF THE SYMPOSIUM

This issue of *Chemical Reviews* contains most of the papers contributed to a symposium sponsored by the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. The sessions of December 30, 1946 were held in the Technological Institute of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. The other sessions were held in Thorne Hall Auditorium of Northwestern University, in Chicago, on December 31, 1946.

The program was arranged by Paul C. Cross of Brown University, who also presided at the opening session. Presiding officers at the later meetings were: P. M. Gross of Duke University (Chairman of the Division, 1946-47), James Franck of the University of Chicago, and F. T. Gucker of Northwestern University. T. F. Young, a former student of G. N. Lewis and Divisional Chairman for 1945-46, and James Franck prepared the dedicatory statement.

To all of these participants and to the contributors of papers, the 1945-46 Executive Committee of the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry expresses its appreciation for their cooperation.