OFFICERS FOR 1918

The following officers have been elected by the American Chemical Society for the year 1918:

President: William H. Nichols, General Chemical Company, New York City.

Directors: H. E. Barnard, State Laboratory of Hygiene, Indianapolis, Ind.; and G. D. Rosengarten, Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Councillors-at-Large: H. E. Howe, A. D. Little, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.; G. A. Hulett, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.; W. A. Noyes, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.; and Allen Rogers, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

DR. NICHOLS—LEADER IN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

By C. F. CHANDLER

Dr. William H. Nichols was one of the small group of New York chemists who, in 1876, originated this by far the largest chemical society in the world. It now has 51 local sections and approximately 11,000 members, and publishes three distinct chemical journals.

Dr. Nichols was born January 9, 1852, in Brooklyn, N. Y. He graduated from the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1868 and then entered New York University, where he had the good fortune to study chemistry under Dr. John W. Draper, the first President of the American Chemical Society. He received his B.S. in 1870. In 1873 he received his M.S. from the same institution; in 1904, LL.D. from Lafayette and Sc.D. from Columbia. In 1912 he was decorated by the King of Italy with the Order of Commendatore of the Crown of Italy. He was president of the English Society of Chemical Industry 1904-1905 and of the Eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry held in Washington and New York in 1912.

In 1870, when only eighteen years old, he founded his own chemical business under the title G. H. Nichols and Company, using his father's name because he was not yet of age. Later the business was incorporated as the Nichols Chemical Company.

The instincts of the pioneer in Dr. Nichols led to the origin in his plant of many ideas and appliances used in chemical industry to-day, for example, the well-known practice of storing and transporting sulfuric acid in steel.

The manufacture of sulfuric acid from pyrites was first carried out profitably in the Nichols Chemical Works at Laurel Hill. The pyrites used contained some copper and the search for the proper metallurgical treatment of it led to the invention of methods still employed for smelting such ores and also to the devising of a method for analyzing copper by electrolysis, which was the foundation of the industry of the elec-

trolytic refining of copper. These processes for smelting and refining copper ores were so successful that the business grew rapidly to such dimensions that in 1898 it was transferred to a special company, the Nichols Copper Company, of which Dr. Nichols is president. The works, located on Newtown Creek, Brooklyn, constitute one of the most extensive copper plants in the world. In 1899, the chemical branch of the business went into the General Chemical Company.

The superior executive ability of Dr. Nichols shows in the success he has had in such enterprises as the rehabilitating of the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company, Ltd., converting it into one of the best-managed copper companies in the world; the recent or-

WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, PRESIDENT AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

ganizing of the National Aniline and Chemical Company, Inc., looking to the permanent relief of American textile manufacturers and others; the bringing of a new lease of life to his Alma Mater, the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, which seemed to be on the decline but is to-day a school of engineering of high mark, due largely to the good work of Dr. Nichols.

With all these business activities Dr. Nichols has acted as chairman of the Committee on Chemicals for the government and just recently has been appointed by Secretary Lane chairman of the Committee of Chemists advisory to the Bureau of Mines.

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