

PLENARY LECTURES

TEACHING AND LEARNING OF CHEMISTRY IN A TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD

by

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ABSTRACT

Centuries back, when the individual sciences of astronomy, pharmacy and metallurgy were coming into existence, it must have seemed improbable that they could ever become closely correlated through the development of physics and chemistry. In those days, it was freely affirmed that the physical sciences and the biological sciences were poles apart and that each would contribute little to the other. Yet there were always some intellectuals who sensed the unification of science and each decade saw further steps on the road to fulfilment of their dreams.

So this presentation commends to you the viewpoint that the aim of the science educationist should be to implant the broad outlook of the scientist rather than the restricted view of the physicist, the geologist or the biologist. Nature, as we all know, recognises no boundaries between the different aspects of science; nor should we. Indeed, to study most of the probierms that confront the manufacturer or the research scientist, a blend of several disciplines is quite commonly necessary. My presentation to you will therefore deal with some of the situations where two or more disciplines are needed.

*ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN GHANA - THE ROLE OF THE CHEMIST

by

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ABSTRACT

The current electricity crisis in Ghana has mandated a holistic approach towards meeting the energy demand of the country. In this paper, a brief review of the various technologies for electricity generation is presented and the role of the chemist in each technology is identified. An emphasis is placed on the nuclear option as a plausible component of a comprehensive energy portfolio and the role of the chemist in each step of the nuclear fuel cycle is outlined. The challenges facing the chemists in the country are enumerated and recommendations for ensuring the incorporation of the nuclear option into the total energy mix of the country are presented.