

was studied as a theoretical curiosity; who could have foretold that it pointed to telegraphy? It was not for practical purposes that William Smith plodded afoot over England, neither resting nor hurrying in his exploration of the strata, but how much of the exploitation of our country's mineral resources had its origin in his maps? The important method of spectrum analysis had its beginning in some apparently insignificant observations. Who can say that the early steps which led to finding a cave of treasures (not altogether without alloy) in coal-tar had, to begin with, any practical outlook?

From an address on Technical Chemistry, by Prof. C. E. Munroe, we take another striking case. "The experience of the past has repeatedly demonstrated the commercial possibilities that are latent in scientific theories. A famous example is found in the commercial development of benzene. Lachman, in 1898, after referring to its discovery by Faraday in 1825, and its production from benzoic acid by Mitscherlich nine years later, says: 'These famous chemists little thought that their limpid oil would one day lay claim to be the most important substance in organic chemistry; that it would give birth to untold thousands of compounds; that it would revolutionize science and technology. The technical development of benzene and its deriva-