

Lecture 9: Chemistry and Industry

1. Background

Priestley, Lavoisier, and the nature of matter

2. Atomic Theory

Dalton: gases, partial pressures, constant proportions

Davy: electrochemistry, decomposition, new elements

Berzelius: chemical notation and combustion analysis

Kekulé: isomers, valency, and structure of benzene

Mendeleev: periodic table

3. Applied Chemistry: Liebig

Agricultural Chemistry, 1840

Synthetic Fertilizers

Nutrition and Beef Extract

Sewage, Fertilizers, and Sewers

4. Synthetic Dyes and Industrial Chemistry

Natural dyes

Hofmann: coal tar derivatives

Perkin: aniline purple

Aniline red and blue

Alizarin and the German chemical industry

Indigo

5. Dyes and Pharmaceuticals

Liebig and Merck

Geigy, CIBA, and Bayer

Aspirin and Heroin

Paul Ehrlich, “magic bullets,” and antibiotics

Further Reading:

William H. Brock, *Justus von Liebig: The Chemical Gatekeeper*, 1997.

Anthony S. Travis, *The Rainbow Makers: The Origins of the Synthetic Dyestuffs Industry in Western Europe*, 1993.

Names and Dates:

Joseph Priestley (1733-1804)

Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier (1743-1794)

Henry Cavendish (1731-1810)

John Dalton (1766-1844)

Jons Jacob Berzelius (1779-1848)

Humphrey Davy (1778-1829)

Justus von Liebig (1803-1873)

Agricultural Chemistry (1840)

Animal Chemistry (1842)

August Kekule (1829-1896), benzene ring

Dmitry Mendeleev (1834-1907), periodic table

August Wilhelm von Hofmann (1818-1892), aniline dyes

William Perkin (1838-1907), mauve (1856)

Heinrich Emanuel Merck (1794-1855)

Merck, commercial production of alkaloids (1827)

Friedrich Bayer (1825-1880)

Bayer AG (1863), Heroin (1897), Aspirin (1899)