PREFACE

Notwithstanding the valuable literature of the petroleum industry, no volume has yet appeared which is devoted particularly to a presentation of information and data desired by the refiner. It is hoped that this publication will fill such existing need. The author's purpose has been to include herein the fundamental information of essential interest to the owner, manager or engineer contemplating installations of refinery equipment, and to the employee seeking knowledge beyond the scope of his present experience, perhaps confined to one or two particular operating departments.

The petroleum refining industry has in the past been characterized by an attitude of reluctance to exchange information between the many companies therein engaged. It is only recently that the benefits of cooperation on many of the ordinary problems of manufacturing have been recognized. For this reason, many of the statements herein may not agree with the experience of other individuals. If criticism and discussion result, with benefit to all, one purpose of the volume will have been fulfilled.

Until recent years, little attention has been given to efficiency in oil refining. It is hoped that the data and suggestions presented will encourage further effort to improve the conditions still existing in many of the refineries.

In a publication of this kind it is of course impossible to describe secret or semi-secret apparatus or processes; and nothing is divulged which has not been applied in practice by two or more independent companies.

The author wishes to express his great indebtedness to Mr. T. T. Gray for assistance in the preparation of the manuscript and for his collaboration with Mr. David Drogin in the preparation of Chapters VII and IV on chemical and physical characte
istics of petroleum; also to Mr. W. D. Ennis for many valuable suggestions, and to Messrs. H. G. Larson and J. G. Brown for their assistance in the preparation of the drawings and manuscript. Appreciation is also expressed for data, drawings and photographs supplied by various oil companies and allied firms.

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January 15, 1923.

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