

THE PHYSICO-CHEMICAL VIEW

REPRINTED by permission from the program of the 1916 banquet of the Pick and Hammer Society of Washington, D. C., on which occasion it was sung. The discussion recorded took place at a meeting of the Petrologists' Club of Washington, the subject being Bowen's paper "Later Stages in the Evolution of Igneous Rocks" (*J. Geology*, 23 Suppl., 1-91, 1915).

(Tune: "The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring," from "The Mikado")

CHORUS:

The physico-chemical view, tra la,
Is one to which all must adhere;
For it tells you the things that are true, tra la,
And all else is wrong that you do, tra la,
And makes you feel foolish and queer.
And that's what we mean when we say unto you,—
"Stick close to the physico-chemical view."
Tra la la la la, tra la la la la, tra la, la la la la la la.

JOE IDDINGS:

The physico-chemical view, tra la,
Has nothing to do with the case;
For it gives my ideas the taboo, tra la,
That I have long preached unto you, tra la,
And should, therefore, remain in first place.
Well that's what I mean when I say unto you,—
"Oh, bother the physico-chemical view."
Tra la la la la, tra la la la la, tra la, la la la la la la.

JOHN JOHNSTON:

The physico-chemical view, tra la,
Insists on the facts as they are.
Near facts as we see them won't do, tra la,
Diffusion, affinity, too, tra la,
Can't work in an igneous stew, tra la.
Such notions are off very far.
And that's what I mean when I say unto you,—
"Stick close in the physico-chemical view."
Tra la la la la, tra la la la la, tra la, la la la la la la.

H. S. WASHINGTON, D. C.¹:

The physico-chemical view (or whatever else you call it. Names don't matter much anyway), tra la,
Has nothing to do with the case, (perhaps it has something or other to do with some cases, but in this case it has nothing to do with the case), tra la.
My ideas on the subject may not accord with the results obtained in the Geophysical Laboratory, of which Johnston and Bowen are the—etc., exponents, etc., but I haven't much use for the laboratory anyway, although I belong to it (but that hasn't anything to do with the case either—and it's not the Quantitative Classification—I'm sick of the Quantitative Classification—yes, thoroughly sick of it); for to one who has ever seen an igneous rock it can't be forgot, tra la,
That a magma is much more complex than an artificial dry melt, and originally contains certain volatile constituents, such as, etc., that escaped while it was hot, tra la,
And therefore, you can't expect that anything so complicated and extending over hundreds of square miles, and with all these, etc., constituents is going to be governed by just the same conditions that existed when a few grams of MgO and SiO₂ were cooked in a pot, tra la,
In the expensive suburb of Chevy Chase.
And that's what I mean when I say (if I whistled it perhaps I might make it just as clear) unto you,—
"Oh, bother the physico-chemical" (or as I was saying before I—anyway as—as I was saying call it by any other name you want to so long as you mean the same) "view."
Tra la la la la, tra la la la la, tra la, la la la la la la.

¹ Destroyer of cigars.