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ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARD

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Mr. President, Fellows, Members of the Mineralogical Society of America, and Guests:

I want to begin by saying how glad I am to be in the United States again. I was here previously two years ago, and it is a real pleasure to come here once more.

When I received your Secretary's letter informing me that I had been given this Award, I could hardly believe my good fortune. So many names came to my mind of mineralogists, both in the United States and abroad, whose claims seemed better than mine. However, the Council has made its decision, and I can only express my sincere, and I hope, humble thanks.

Many people, and several institutions, ought to share this honor with me. I am thinking of my teachers, especially Professor Barrer, who first interested me in silicate chemistry and taught me much about it, and Professor Bernal, who taught me something from his great knowledge of crystallography. I am indeed sorry that Dr. L. J. Spencer is no longer alive to hear me say that his friendly criticisms of my first papers in the *Mineralogical Magazine* helped me to become something more like a mineralogist. I did not enjoy rewriting them at the time, but realize now how much he taught me. I have been fortunate in the places where I have worked, especially Birkbeck College, London, and Aberdeen University. Both have provided excellent facilities for research. Perhaps most important of all, I have had some first rate collaborators. On the mineralogical side of my research, Alan Gard, Lesley Dent Glasser, and Roy Buckle in particular have contributed much, both in experimental skill and in interpretation and ideas, for which I am to-day receiving the credit.

I believe that it is good to combine fundamental research with work of a more applied kind. In my case the fundamental work has mostly been on the chemistry and crystallography of calcium silicates, and the applied work on the hydration reactions of cements. I have found that the fundamental work provides a stimulus for the applied work, and vice versa. I am not sure that one cannot go further and suggest that the university scientist should feel a certain moral obligation to devote part of his energy to work with some degree of technical significance, and that industry should feel a corresponding obligation to support work that is other than of immediate utility. I have enjoyed happy relations with industrial firms, both in the United States and in Great Britain. It is fitting

that I acknowledge here my gratitude to industry in the United States in particular for both the ideas and the financial support that it has provided.

As Professor Staples has told you, I was trained as a chemist, and am to-day a lecturer in inorganic chemistry. There was a time, during the last century, when inorganic chemistry was often called mineral chemistry, and was closely allied with mineralogy. In recent years this link has become somewhat tenuous, and the emphasis in inorganic chemistry has moved towards finite groups of atoms—coordination chemistry, problems of the chemical bond, and the like. I do not wish in the least to belittle the importance of these fields of study. However, I believe most strongly that a renewed closer association with mineralogy would benefit both disciplines.

I have tried, both as a research worker and as a teacher, to do something to make the links between the two subjects a little stronger. I hope that, in future years, many new links will be forged in different laboratories, and that I may play my part in this process. In that way, I might show myself worthy of the honor that you have given me.