

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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## Foresight and Leadership



NEW AND OLDEST CHEMISTRY BUILDINGS. LATTER BUILT IN 1856, INSERTED ON SAME SCALE BESIDE PRESENT BUILDING

MICHIGAN has reason to be grateful that her founders were men of great good sense and vision. The History of her Chemical Laboratory and Department of Chemistry affords an excellent illustration of this. First among the State universities and practically contemporaneously with Harvard, Michigan erected a building especially planned and devoted to the purposes of a chemical laboratory.

### A Pioneer Chemical Laboratory

Liebig's laboratory at Giessen, the first in the world, was established in 1828. In 1842 Professor Benjamin Silliman began to give laboratory instruction in chemistry at Yale and Dr. Robert Hare's private laboratory in Philadelphia was resorted to by special students. At Michigan, instruction in Chemistry began with the appointment of Silas H. Douglas in 1844, as assistant to Dr. Douglas Houghton, one of the original faculty, who had been named Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology in 1839 although he never taught chemistry. The laboratory method of instruction was introduced soon after President Henry P. Tappan's arrival in 1852, and it was likewise through President Tappan's influence that a special building was erected as a chemical laboratory in 1856.

### The First Chemical Laboratory at Michigan

This was a very simple little structure, only one story high and with three rooms and twenty-six laboratory tables. It was added to in 1861, 1866, 1868, 1874, 1880, 1888 and 1901, so that the original structure, if any of it is actually left, can hardly be distinguished as part of the conglomerate pile that is now called the Pharmacology Building. But here A. B. Prescott, Otis Coe Johnson, Paul C. Freer, E. D. Campbell and other well known Michigan men of years past worked; the late Dean Victor C. Vaughan and Professor F. G. Novy began their researches in the old building, and many of the present staff, including Professors Moses Gomberg, Alfred H. White, S. L. Bigelow and W. G. Smeaton, have memories of it.

In 1908 the construction of the present chemical laboratory was begun, and in 1909 it was occupied. This is a very different sort of structure from the three-room bungalow in which chemistry made its first appearance on the Michigan Campus three-quarters of a century ago.



For general information concerning the University, address Shirley W. Smith, Secretary and Business Manager of the University, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

For information concerning undergraduate Colleges and admission thereto, address Ira M. Smith, Registrar.

For similar information concerning the Schools, address the Dean of the School concerned.



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