

1910

## Electrochemical Industries

Joseph William Richards

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## Electrochemical Industries.

Dr. JOSEPH W. RICHARDS delivered an address on "the present status of the electrochemical industries." If all the electrochemical industries were put together on one spot, they would equal the industries of Pittsburgh. But they are scattered all over the world. At present there are only two electric steel refining furnaces in regular operation in the Pittsburgh district, but in other places of the world there are almost 100. But when Pittsburgh takes up a thing it is done with elementary energy. Dr. Richards predicted a great future for the electric steel furnace in Pittsburgh.

A concise sketch was then given of the various classes of electrochemical industries—electrolytic processes, electric furnace processes, and processes employing the electric arc and electric discharges in general. Dr. Richards then showed in a

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long series of lantern slides typical installations of such processes, to carry home his main point, that electrochemical processes do not simply exist on paper, but that electrochemical industries are a reality, an accomplished fact of considerable commercial importance to-day. But the future is even brighter.

There is now a demand and a necessity for cheaper power, and the developments along this line change the commercial geography of the world.