WANTS GLASS INDUSTRY TO BE ARTISTIC

The American glass industry has increased manifold in the value of its output and the amount of capital invested, and has developed many new ways of making modern types of glass apparatus on the market. Art, however, should not be left out, in the opinion of Prof. Alexander Silverman of the University of Pittsburgh, who described the history of fifty years of glass making to the scientists at the meeting of the American Chemical Society. The plate glass of shop windows is now made by a new continuous rolling process, Prof. Silverman said, and bottles and electrical bulbs are made by machine. Much study has been devoted to the making of bullet-proof glass. New colors are being produced by the chemical element selenium and other materials in glass tableware.

NEW TEXAS POTASH MAY SOLVE FERTILIZER PROBLEMS

The potash fields recently discovered in Texas are now believed comparable with the famous German ones which before the war supplied the world with potash. Dr. John W. Turrentine, in charge of potash investigation in the U.S. Bureau of Soils, at the meeting of the American Chemical Society recently, said that there was ground for hope that a potash industry of national importance may be developed here. Incomplete data so far available fail to reveal a workable deposit, Dr. Turrentine said, but amply justify the thorough exploration of this field.

The isolation of the Texas potash fields is a severe drawback to their commercial development, but it can be overcome, Dr. Turrentine believes, by a system of pipelines for the transportation of the concentrated brines from the mines to the nearest seaports. At these places the solution could be chemically refined and shipped by water routes to markets of the southern and middle western states.

The potash salts discovered in the Texas fields could be used for fertilizer without refining, but the low concentration, it is believed, would prohibit its transportation by rail to any great distances. However it might be used without refining in the southwest where no supplies of cheap potash are now available. These salts could be easily converted into rich potash compounds by simple chemical treatment which would reduce transportation costs and enable them to compete with the cheap Franco-German potash on the market today, Dr. Turrentine said. Potash recovery, which was formerly a mining industry, is now essentially chemical, through the need of making the final product richer and thereby cutting transportation costs. The Texas potash industry, he believes, will be no exception, and its success will depend on the ingenuity of the chemist.
