GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

Ostwald, Friedrich Wilhelm 1853 - 1932

DEGREE: PhD DATE: 1878 PLACE: Dorpat
TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Schmidt

Nobel Prize 1909 - especially in recognition of his studies on catalysis; co-established (with Arrhenius and van't Hoff) physical chemistry as a separate discipline; first to show that stronger acids are more extensively dissociated in solution; proposed idea that catalysts lower energy of activation of chemical reactions; popularized use of physical properties such as density and refractive index to study chemical reactions; formulated first scientific theory of indicators; discovered industrial catalytic method for the oxidation of NH_3 to nitrogen oxides; invented a volumetric method to measure the relative strengths of monobasic acids.

FOOTNOTE: Lemberg (who was Schmidt's principal assistant) instructed Ostwald during his stay in Dorpat. Lemberg taught Ostwald to pay close attention to problems in chemical equilibrium, mass action, and reaction velocity: all themes of Ostwald's later work.

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6. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1933**, 316-332.
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