Why is secrecy particularly important in the chemical industry?

Two factors weigh heavily against the effectiveness of scientific research in industry.

One is the general atmosphere of secrecy in which it is carried out, the other is the lack of freedom of the individual research worker.

In so far as any inquiry is a secret one, it naturally limits all those engaged in carrying it out from effective contact with their fellow scientists either in other countries or in universities, or even, often enough, in other departments of the same firm.

The degree of secrecy naturally varies considerably.

Some of the bigger firms are engaged in researches which are of such general and fundamental nature that it is a positive advantage to them not to keep them secret.

Yet a great many processes depending on such research are sought with complete secrecy until the stage at which patents can be taken out.

Even more, processes are never patented at all but kept as secret processes.

This applies particularly to chemical industries, where chance discoveries play a much larger part than they do in physical and mechanical industries.

Sometimes the secrecy goes to such an extent that the whole nature of the research cannot be mentioned.

Many firms, for instance, have great difficulty in obtaining technical or scientific books from libraries because they are unwilling to have their names entered as having taken out such and such a book, for fear the agents of other firms should be able to trace the kind of research they are likely to be undertaking.

The atmosphere of secrecy in which research is carried out, and the lack of freedom that an individual research worker has.

Some processes in chemical industries are never patented at all because they are kept as secret processes.

Some firms are reluctant to borrow books from libraries because they are afraid that agents of other firms will be able to find out what research they are undertaking.

The fact that she cannot use a word processor may weigh heavily against her when she tries to get an office job.

All the office plants have died due to a lack of water.

There is very little effective contact between the staff of the two universities.

If we make any changes that will have any effect at all, they must be fundamental changes.

The metal goes through several separate processes before it can be shaped into window frames.

This section of the questionnaire only applies to married men.

Government scientists have been unable to trace the source of the epidemic.

The singer is likely to be going on a tour of Asia later this year.

Insofar as any inquiry is a secret one, it naturally limits all those engaged in carrying it out.

Many firms, for instance, have great difficulty in obtaining technical or scientific books from libraries.

He was engaged in looking for a cure for the common cold.

He was prevented from publishing the results of his research.

He insisted on telling his colleagues what he had discovered.

If you persist in consulting with your old colleagues, we shall have to take action.

He told me not to mention it to you.

Please tell him not to call in the morning.

Didn’t I beg you not to write to him?

We are going to have this room decorated soon.

I had this watch repaired last year.

Will you have the television installed in this room?

Lest anyone should worry that this will lead to price increases, let me reassure them that it will not.

Mother bought a lot of milk for fear we wouldn’t be able to get any for a few more days.

He is such a kind person that he is always thinking of ways to help his fellow men.

I try to do as much work as all my fellow students.

The leader of the trade union tried to persuade his fellow workers not to go on strike.

I’ll help you as much as I can.

She goes to the city often enough to know where the best places to eat are.

The temperature rose to such an extent that the firemen had to leave the burning building.

There have been so many complaints about the department that the whole nature of their business will have to be investigated.

I think we can carry on without your help.

The audience was completely carried away by the wonderful performance of the soloist.

The government failed to carry through the new bill on housing in the House of Commons last night.

If they tell you to come on such and such a day, don’t come if it’s not convenient.

Fear of industrial espionage can lead to secrecy in scientific research.

Some kinds of scientific research are ‘more secret’ than others.

Firms want to be sure they own the rights to intellectual property before they reveal what they’re doing.

The possibility of making discoveries by accident increases the need for secrecy.

One is the general atmosphere of secrecy that is created.

To the extent that any inquiry is a secret one, it naturally limits...

Some of the bigger firms are engaged in research that is so general that it is a positive advantage to them not to keep it secret.

They keep even more processes as secret processes.

Freedom is absent for the individual research worker.

It naturally limits all those engaged in performing it.

It is in their best interests not to keep them secret.