

# CHEMISTRY ADVENT 2018

8

1850



**BENJAMIN SILLIMAN JR.**

 1816-1885



An instrumental chemist in the development of the oil industry



Applied fractional distillation to crude oil, which he reported on in 1855



Identified the potential uses of crude oil for illumination and as a lubricant



Outlined methods for preparing and purifying products from crude oil

1852



**ROBERT BUNSEN**

 1811-1899



Perfected the Bunsen burner with his assistant, Peter Desaga, in 1855. It is still commonly used in school labs



Invented the spectroscope with Gustav Kirchoff in 1859 to investigate the composition of coloured flames



By studying element emission spectra, discovered the elements caesium (1860) and rubidium (1861)

1854

1856

1858



**ALEXANDER PARKES**

 1813-1890



Held around 80 patents, mostly relating to electroplating of materials and the development of plastics



Made the first semi-synthetic plastic, Parkesine, by reacting nitrocellulose with various different solvents



Parkesine was used as a substitute for tortoiseshell, ivory, and other materials

