Michel-Eugène Chevreul Encyclopedia Article

Michel-Eugène Chevreul

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Michel-Eugène Chevreul

1786-1889

French chemist, physicist, philosopher, and psychologist who, as a result of his work with the chemistry of fats, is regarded as one of the founders of modern organic chemistry. He placed the chemistry of fats on a firm scientific basis by explaining saponification; isolating oleic, palmitic, and stearic fatty acids; and improving methods for soap and candle manufacture. He also made important contributions to the chemistry of dyeing, the physics of color, and the psychology of color.