

For Release  
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Oxygen! Many of the familiar phenomena of our day were not understood 160 years ago. Oxygen, comprising one-fifth of the air, and constituting its most important element, was discovered independently by Scheele in 1773 and by Priestly in 1774. Both were adherents of the phlogistic theory, which taught that burning substances liberated phlogiston; that is, became lighter. It remained for Lavoisier to establish the fact that when matter burned, its weight was increased by the uniting of the burning substance with the oxygen of the air, and that heat was imponderable. After oxygen was discovered in 1773, no other new element of the air was discovered until 1894.

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