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THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

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THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Dr. Robert D. Coghill, Associate Director of Research, Abbott Laboratories, will speak on "The Background of Penicillin Production" at the next meeting, Friday, November 16th. This talk will cover the general subject of antibiotics, with particular reference to penicillin. The story of penicillin will be traced from Fleming's original discovery to present-day production, including discussion of the molds from which it is obtained and the methods used for its assay. If secrecy regulations are lifted in time, additional details will be given on the chemistry of penicillin.

Dr. Coghill did his undergraduate and Master's work at the University of Kansas and completed his doctoral research at Yale University in 1924. During the next two years he worked at Yale, as a National Tuberculosis Association Research Fellow, on the nucleic acids and proteins of the tubercle bacillus and related organisms. He was then appointed to the teaching staff at Yale and for thirteen years taught organic chemistry. During that time, he continued work on the chemistry of the acid-fast bacteria and initiated work on amino acids and antitoxins. In 1939, Dr. Coghill left Yale to become Chief of the Fermentation Division of the newly-established Northern Regional Research Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture. His work there, for six years, was concerned with the development of new fermentation processes, including those leading to the production of 2,3-butanediol, itaconic acid, and penicillin. The Northern Regional Research Laboratory was among the first in this country to start work on penicillin and has been active in this field ever since. On November 1, 1945, Dr. Coghill joined Abbott Laboratories as Associate Director of Research.

The meeting will be preceded by the usual dinner, which is expected to be as successful as the other two held this fall.

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Please direct all correspondence pertaining to THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST to Dr. Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 18, Md.

Examination of enrollments in chemistry classes in Baltimore colleges reveals some interesting trends. A goodly number of the new students are veterans; thus, among 62 new students at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland, there are 17 veterans, 6 of whom are returning to complete work interrupted by service in the Armed Forces. The number of beginners in chemistry in both men's and women's colleges shows in general a slight increase over last year and also over the number ten years ago.

The first year classes include large numbers of students under 18 years of age: a group in which the influence of Selective Service has not been felt. The situation in classes beyond the first year, however, is entirely different. The Provost of the Johns Hopkins University reports: "In 1935, 164 students were enrolled in advanced courses in chemistry; this year in the three upper classes only 56 students are enrolled in these courses. This condition is due entirely to the operation of Selective Service and will not be remedied until there are changes in either the selective service law or the regulations governing deferment of selected students. . . . The effect of Selective Service also is apparent in the graduate enrollment at Hopkins. The total of graduate registrations - 21 - is substantially below the normal capacity of the chemistry department and reflects clearly the drying up of sources of new students due to the operation of Selective Service."

The situation outlined above and its consequences have been discussed so much by individuals and the press that it needs no elaboration here. The facts about local conditions, however, may bring the problem a little closer home.

OPEN MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO MARYLAND CHEMISTS

The Maryland Association of Medical and Public Health Laboratories will meet at Union Memorial Hospital on November 14th at 4:30 P.M. The speakers will include Dr. Parker Hitchens, Health Commissioner of Wilmington, Delaware, on "The Future Role of the Public Health Laboratory", and Dr. M. S. Sacks, of the University of Maryland Medical School, on haematology. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Elizabeth Petran, of the State Health Department.

The American Society for Metals will meet at the Engineers Club on November 19th at 8:00 P.M. A talk on "Metallography Now" will be given by Dr. C. S. Barrett, of the Metals Research Laboratory, also Professor of Metallurgical Engineering at Carnegie Institute of Technology. Dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M.

WAR ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

This department had, at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, a staff of 18 teachers and fellows. Within six months, it had sent a chemist to the War Production Board, two toxicologists to Edgewood Arsenal, a chemist to the antimalarial intermediate synthesis work in industry, an instructor to the Navy on oxygen indoctrination, an assistant surgeon to the U. S. Public Health Service, two teachers to other medical schools and a flight officer to the Canadian Air Forces.

The staff remaining conducted a course for physicians during the summer of 1942 on the pharmacology and toxicology of chemical warfare agents. In conjunction with the Atlas Powder Company the department carried out extensive nutritional and toxicologic studies on "fats" without glycerin, mannide and mannitan esters. This was in anticipation of a possible glycerin shortage such as England had experienced in the last war. With the cooperation of the Atlas Powder Company the staff studied toxicologically compounds intended for washing grease from the skin with sea water. The head of the department was appointed consultant toxicologist to the U. S. Army Service Forces and served in this capacity on a variety of problems throughout the war period.

The solution of many of these problems required extensive investigational work which was carried out in the department. The toxicologic studies included gas repellants, agents for wound healing, fire retardants, mold inhibitors and vinylite paints. The staff prosecuted a vigorous teaching program in pharmacology in the A. S. T. P. unit of the Medical School and the School of Nursing. In addition, scientific research was continued leading to the development of two new volatile anesthetics, a unique antacid in the treatment of peptic ulcer and an effective oral penicillin preparation.

John C. Krantz, Jr.

from 4th page) DOCUMENTS--FEDERAL AND STATE. Designated by the Superintendent of Documents as a depository library, the Pratt Library receives automatically all federal documents not marked confidential or restricted. Of most interest to chemists are the publications of the Departments of Agriculture, War and Navy; the Bureau of Mines and Bureau of Standards; the Geological Survey; and the Public Health Service. It is possible to borrow unbound duplicates of bound files, as well as original copies of series never bound.

The Library is on the permanent mailing list of most of the state agricultural and engineering experiment stations and of the state bureaus of mines and geology. This material may be freely borrowed on a library card.

(Editors' Note: This article will be concluded in the December issue. Later articles will deal with the special libraries, thus presenting Baltimore library facilities available to chemists.)

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Dr. Coghill

NEXT MEETING November 16 TIME 8:30 P. M.
 SPEAKER Dr. Coghill
 PLACE Room 404, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins
 Charles & 34th Streets

BRING ANOTHER CHEMIST
 This is the only notice of this meeting which
 you will receive.

Save the date December 14 for the next meeting.

PRATT LIBRARY RESOURCES IN CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

Elsa von Hohenhoff, Head
 Industry and Science Department, Enoch Pratt Free Library

The Industry and Science Department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore was founded in 1916. The collection comprises four large subject fields: the physical and biological sciences; engineering and manufactures; military and naval science; medicine, hygiene, and public health. The Library aims to fashion a well-rounded collection of materials pertinent to the scientific and industrial activities of Baltimore within the limit of available funds. Since the city is an important chemical center, purchases include practically everything of significance in pure and applied chemistry published in this country, except school texts and laboratory manuals, of which only a select number of the more original and outstanding are added every year. English books and Alien Property Custodian reprints are purchased when they fill a definite subject gap and seem applicable to American needs. Most of the books in the department may be borrowed on a library card. There are also facilities for inter-library loan and photostatting. Lists of new library accessions are published weekly and are accumulated annually into large subject lists. The Industry and Science Department issues annual compilations of its accessions in each of the four subject fields mentioned above.

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REFERENCE WORKS. The backbone of the chemical reference collection is, of course, the standard handbooks, formularies, and foreign language dictionaries; the International Critical Tables and other compilations of constants; Heilbron's Dictionary of Organic Compounds, Mellor's Comprehensive Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry, Gmelin's Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie, Beilstein's Handbuch der Organischen Chemie (including some Edwards reprints), Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry, Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis, Gregory's Uses and Applications of Chemicals and Related Materials; the industrial texts of Read, Riegel, Rogers, and Shreve; and the larger monographs in special branches. The Monographs of the American Chemical Society and Organic Syntheses are received on standing order each year.

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