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THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE MARCH MEETING

The usual formal address by an outside speaker has been omitted from the program for the March meeting of the Section so that members may be given opportunity to voice their preferences and opinions on many matters relating to the conduct of national and section business. The nature of some of the problems with which Maryland chemists are faced has been discussed at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee. At the March meeting these problems will be outlined by members of the Section, then the meeting will be open for discussion from the floor. Those who cannot attend the meeting are urged to submit their individual viewpoints in writing to the Secretary, Dr. C. W. Wilson, 4122 Westview Road, Baltimore 18, Maryland.

There are matters of national importance which the officers of the American Chemical Society deem of sufficient importance to warrant discussion by the Council at the Atlantic City meeting. The Maryland Section has elected to this Council six representatives who naturally wish to represent their constituents correctly. Part of the time at the next local meeting will therefore be devoted to discussion of business that may come before the Council. Some questions which may be expected are listed below.

Licensing of Chemists. This controversial question has been widely and heatedly discussed, and is one about which every chemist should be informed. There seems to be general agreement that licensing is not the ideal solution to the problem, but its proponents hold that it is the best solution so far offered. The opinions of chemists in industry should be particularly valuable in this discussion and it is hoped that many of our industrial members will be present. Licensing is a problem which has been faced by other professions. The medical, dental, law and engineering professions are now licensed, and the (to second page

Section Officers
 Chairman Giles B. Cooke Vice-chairman John A. Herculson
 Secretary C. W. Wilson Treasurer C. W. Wilson

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 THE CONDUCT OF MARYLAND SECTION BUSINESS

The Executive Committee of the Maryland Section is responsible for conducting the routine business of the Section. The Program Committee, in consultation with the Executive Committee, plans the regular monthly meetings. These committees have discharged their responsibilities in excellent fashion. They realize, however, that their decisions may not always be satisfactory to all members. The Secretary will always welcome suggestions on any matters relating to section affairs, and the March meeting will give further opportunity to present varying points of view.

1/2 → A variety of questions present themselves for consideration. There are about six hundred members in the Maryland Section. Many attend the monthly meetings infrequently. Is this because the time or place of meeting is inconvenient; because the subjects or speakers lack interest? To what extent should we vary our programs by plant visits, symposia, local speakers? THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST is a new enterprise of the Section; are alterations or extensions in its size and content desirable? Should the Section take more active steps to make Baltimore more aware of the value and importance of chemistry (and chemists)? Are we carrying our share in the scientific-cultural development of the city and its citizens? Members of the Section may have strong opinions and excellent ideas about some of these matters. The Executive Committee would like to know about them.

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 1 → LOCAL DUES

Local dues are needed for support of such local activities as the social interval following the meetings and THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST. Funds to support these activities are not available except by such voluntary assessments as local dues. If you have not sent that dollar to the Treasurer, please do so NOW!

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2 1/2
 from first page) experiences of these groups, particularly the last mentioned, may be valuable to the chemist in solving this problem. In the February 10 issue of Chemical and Engineering News both sides of the question were presented in articles by Gustav Egloff (in favor) and Charles Parsons (opposed). Other articles on the subject have appeared in The Chemist.

1/2 → National Meetings. There has been discussion of the number and location of national meetings. Shall we have one or two a

year? Shall one meeting be held regularly in the same place, large enough to care for the needs of the whole society? Shall we substitute for one national meeting a regional meeting?

4 1/2
Proposed Legislation within the National Society. Five amendments have been proposed to the constitution of the American Chemical Society; two are concerned with the organization of the Society, particularly with the personnel and functions of the Council; and the others with the apportionment of national dues between the local and national treasuries. Two of the latter make identical proposals to broaden the purposes for which these funds may be spent, and revoke the time limit on their expenditure. All five of these amendments will be presented to the Council for action at the April meeting. (Note: The proposed amendments were printed in Chemical and Engineering News for 1945 on pages 794 (May 10), 1149 (July 10), 2302 and 2305 (December 25). The present constitution of the Society was printed in the News Edition, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, 16, 48 (1938).

19
 23
Employment Clearing House. The national society has proposed the establishment of Regional Employment Clearing Houses, and one is already in operation in Boston. The operation of the system is described in Chemical and Engineering News, 23, 793 (May 10, 1945). Should the Maryland Section do anything in this field?

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26 1/2
 from fourth page) investigators, with the result that many diagnostic and therapeutic products have been made available. A current development is the completion of an entirely new system of preparing sterile chemical and biological ampule products, which has been used as a model for some of the large penicillin plants in this country and abroad.

33
 During the war period Hynson, Westcott & Dunning engaged in a number of research, development and production projects, for the successful completion of which the firm was given five Army-Navy "E" awards. The laboratory, for example, developed a sterile dispenser package of sulfanilamide for the Armed Services. The device was patented, but the rights were relinquished to permit other concerns to supply civilian medical requirements. Many millions of these packages were supplied under contracts with the United States Services and Allied Governments. The firm also supplied all military requirements of BAL ampules. This product, which was on a "secret" basis until recently, has been disclosed to be 2,3-dimercaptopropanol. As the name (British Anti-Lewisite) suggests, it is an effective therapeutic agent against the action of certain arsenical war gases. Clinical trials have shown it to be of value also in other types of arsenical poisoning. A very recent research problem which has been under investigation in collaboration with the Public Health Service is the preparation of an antigen for use in connection with the diagnosis of amoebiasis. An effective antigen has now been produced and will shortly be made available.

52

Reduced for use

MARYLAND SECTION

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: March 29

TIME: 8:30 P. M.

PLACE

Room 101, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins

PROGRAM

Discussion of National and Local Business

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

The meeting will be preceded by the usual dinner at Levering Hall.

APRIL MEETING: Save the afternoon of April 20th for a plant visit.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH CHESAPEAKE CHEMISTRY

Should have been

III. HYNSON, WESTCOTT & DUNNING, INC.

(Courtesy of Eric Drake)

The history of Hynson, Westcott & Dunning, Inc., began fifty-seven years ago with the establishment of a new professional pharmacy in Baltimore. The founders were Henry P. Hynson and James W. Westcott. They were joined in 1894 by Dr. H. A. B. Dunning, whose interest in preparing experimental products led, a few years later, to the manufacture of special products, many of which were suggested to him by medical friends. The early pharmaceutical specialities, which were of a biological nature, included ovarian products and a dehydrated culture of *Lactobacillus Bulgaricus* in tablet form.

One of the most important events at that time was the commercial preparation of the dye phenolsulfonphthalein, which led indirectly to the later development of Mercurochrome and Merodicein. Synthesis of the dye had been announced by Dr. Ira Remsen in 1889. Subsequent pharmacological study of material prepared by Dr. H. A. B. Dunning, who originated the commercial process, led to the development of the Rowntree-Geraghty kidney function test. At Dr. Geraghty's suggestion, Dr. Dunning also prepared a mercury compound of the dye, and this was investigated as a possible urinary antiseptic by Drs. Hugh H. Young and E. G. Davis. Later, the synthesis of dibromoxymercurifluorescein was accomplished by Dr. E. C. White, and the process for preparing its soluble sodium salt, Mercurochrome, was worked out by Dr. H. A. B. Dunning. Still later, a third compound, the sodium salt of monohydroxymercuridiiodoresorcinsulfonphthalein, which is known commercially as Merodicein and is one of the two active ingredients of Thantis Lozenges, was prepared by Dr. J. H. F. Dunning. All of this work may be said to stem from Dr. Remsen's synthesis of phenolsulfonphthalein. It is interesting to note that this synthesis, which became so closely related to the history of Hynson, Westcott & Dunning, occurred in the same year that the company was formed.

The development of research departments within the organization began at an early date, the first step in this direction being the establishment of a chemical research laboratory. When interest turned to biological products, a bacteriological laboratory was added; it has now been developed into a general biological department. In recent years, laboratory facilities have been greatly expanded and cooperative research has been carried on between the staff and independent clinical (to third page)