

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

NOVEMBER 1948

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MARYLAND SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The Maryland Section will hold its next meeting on Friday, November 19, 1948. Dr. Joseph T. Walker, of the Massachusetts State Police Chemical Laboratory and Harvard University, will speak on "Toxicology and Chemistry in Crime Detection."

Dr. Walker received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in 1930, and his doctorate from Harvard University in 1933. His research work at Harvard was done in organic chemistry under the supervision of that famous teacher, Dr. E. P. Koehler. In 1943 Dr. Walker joined the staff of the State Police Chemical Laboratory, Massachusetts Department of Public Safety, with which he is still associated. Since 1940 he has been an Associate in the Department of Legal Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Walker has been particularly interested in the fields of toxicology and microchemistry and in the application of the methods of science to crime detection. In his lecture he will discuss the applications of the methods of toxicology, biology, physics, chemistry and blood identification in the field of criminology, and will use slides to illustrate various cases.

The Section will also hold a short business session during this meeting. To facilitate transaction of business with ACS headquarters in Washington, the Executive Committee of the Section has decided to hold the annual election of Section officers at the November meeting. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee (see page 2) will be presented to the Section for action at this time.

The dinner preceding the meeting will be held at the Johns Hopkins Club. Reservations must be made before noon on Thursday, November 18, with Dr. A. H. Corwin, Department of Chemistry, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 18 - telephone HOPKINS 3300, Extension 322. The dinner is open to all members of the Section.

Section Officers

Chairman J. A. Herculson, 407 Murdock Road, Baltimore 12
 Vice-Chairman A. H. Corwin, Department of Chemistry,
 The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 18
 Secretary-Treasurer H. H. Lloyd, Goucher College, Baltimore 18

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 Editor: Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 18, Maryland.

ELECTION TIME IN THE MARYLAND SECTION

The Maryland Section will elect officers for 1949 at the meeting in November, 1948. The Nominating Committee, consisting of C. Jelleff Carr, Sylvan Forman, Harry Iwamoto and John C. Krantz, Jr., chairman, has submitted the slate printed below. Further nominations may be made from the floor.

Chairman -- John A. Herculson, Chief Chemist to the Maryland Racing Commission

Vice-Chairman -- Alsoph H. Corwin, Professor of Chemistry, The Johns Hopkins University

Secretary-Treasurer -- H. H. Lloyd, Professor of Chemistry, Goucher College

Members of the Executive Committee (on which the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary-treasurer, Councillors and Councillor-alternates and all resident past chairmen also serve), five to be elected:

Charles E. Brambel, Assistant Director of the Clinical Laboratory, Mercy Hospital

Sylvan Forman, Research Chemist, U.S. Industrial Chemicals
 Winslow H. Hartford, Research Chemist, Mutual Chemical Company of America

Leslie Hellerman, Associate Professor of Physiological Chemistry, The Johns Hopkins Medical School

Walter H. C. Rueggeberg, Research Chemist, Organic Division, Army Chemical Center

Councillors -- The number of members in the Maryland Section permits us four Councillors for 1949. With the present system of a three year term for Councillors, two Maryland members continue in office (C. Jelleff Carr through 1949, Belle Otto through 1950, with C. W. Wilson as alternate). The Section must therefore elect two Councillors, one for a three year and one for a one year term, and must also elect alternates for these Councillors and one to replace Dr. Walter H. Hartung. Dr. Hartung, who served as Councillor-alternate for Dr. Carr, has gone to the University of North Carolina. The Nominating Committee proposes the following:

One year term (1949) -- E. Emmett Reid, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, The Johns Hopkins University
 Alternate -- Wilton H. Harden, Production Manager, Hynson, Westcott and Dunning

Three year term (1949 through 1951) -- Duncan MacRae, Chief Chemist, Army Chemical Center
 Alternate -- Giles B. Cooke, Research Chemist, Crown Cork and Seal Company

ELECTION TIME FOR THE ACS

Each Maryland member of the ACS received, early this month, ballots with which to vote for President-Elect and for a Regional Director for this district. The polls close Monday, November 29. Every member concerned with the welfare of his profession and his Society should mail his ballot before that date.

At the October meeting of the Section Dr. E. E. Reid reminded us of another opportunity and obligation. He spoke as a member of the Council Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections, which presents the slate of nominees for President-Elect, Directors-at-Large, Regional Directors and members of the Council Policy Committee. The committee requests suggestion of nominees from individual members or groups, and from the names submitted prepares the slate presented to the Council and ACS members. Dr. Reid stated that in 1948 the committee had not received a single name from the Maryland Section, and voiced the hope that we would take some action for 1950. The committee should receive proposed names not later than March 15, 1949 so that they can be discussed at a meeting on March 27. These are the first steps in preparing the ballots which will come to ACS members a year hence. Maryland chemists must have some ideas about the men, "Free Staters" or otherwise, whom they would like to see leading the Society. These ideas may be submitted to any of the Section officers (see page 2) or sent directly to the Committee. Further particulars may be found in Chemical and Engineering News for October 18, 1948 on pages 3089 and 3169.

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from page 4) Remsen The Chemist and Teacher

find that Standard Oil Company had no chemical laboratory and that his chances for financial benefit and future research opportunities were much better in petroleum than as a teacher of chemistry. Burton did as I advised him and later that summer I had a letter from Burton, then at Berlin working under Professor von Hofmann, stating that I had won the bet. The Standard Oil Company had no chemical laboratory and he had entered their employ at \$3500 per year and was building a laboratory for them. The result of this was that Dr. Burton later became president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and a very rich man.

Later I met Remsen at the University Club in Baltimore, where he enjoyed playing billiards very often, and told him of Burton's success. His reply was that Burton had had good luck and that most persons who thought of industrial uses of their chemical knowledge did not thus succeed!

Many years later (1916) Dr. Burton, in thanking me again for my advice of 1889, said that he had fifteen Ph. D's working under him at the Standard Oil plant at Whiting, Indiana, many of them Hopkins men. Furthermore he had made a contract with "the Boss", which was the title we students always gave to Remsen, to be a chemical adviser to Standard Oil at a salary of \$5000 a year, which pleased both him and Remsen very much!



Joseph T. Walker

NEXT MEETING November 19 TIME 8:30 P.M.
PLACE Room 101, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins
Charles & 34th Streets
SPEAKER Dr. Joseph T. Walker
SUBJECT Chemistry in Crime Detection
BUSINESS Election of Officers for 1949
DINNER 6:30, The Johns Hopkins Club
Charles & 34th Streets
The meeting is open to any who are interested.
Bring another chemist.

The DECEMBER MEETING will be held on Friday, December 17, when Dr. C. E. Barnett of the Research Division, Technical Department, New Jersey Zinc Co., will speak on "Phosphors and Phosphorescence".

REMSEN THE CHEMIST AND TEACHER
Alfred R. L. Dohme

(Editor's note: These sketches of Ira Remsen, by one of his students, are continued from the October issue.)

When I returned to Baltimore in 1891, after two years of post-doctoral work at German universities, Remsen asked me to tell the graduate students about my experiences. There were about twenty-five present and I told them that their best chance in life as chemists was to enter the employ of industrial companies, because at that time few of our big industries had chemists. In Germany I had learned from Professor von Hofmann at Berlin and Professor Fresenius at Wiesbaden that all chemical laboratories at German universities were giving their students problems whose solutions would be important industrially. In fact, von Hofmann gave me such an "arbeit" in the perfume industry. At that time steel, glass, cement, leather and drug companies had no chemists or real chemical laboratories. Remsen rose after my talk and told his students that they must make allowances for my youthful enthusiasm and that his advice was to prepare for a teaching career. From this belief he never deviated in his life time.

I gave as an illustration of the worth of my advice the case of my fellow student William Merriam Burton, of Ohio, who took his final examinations in 1889, as I did. These examinations included a written and an oral, an hour long, before the entire faculty. We both passed the examinations creditably, Remsen told us, and then also told us that he had professorships for both of us - Burton at Adelbert College in Ohio and me at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, New York, at \$2,500 per year. Burton and I had a talk after the interview and I said I would not accept Remsen's offer. I advised Burton not to accept either but instead to stop at Cleveland, Ohio and visit the Standard Oil Company which had just begun to develop oil properties. I felt that oil was going to play a very important part in industry and as Burton had analyzed and distilled a sample of petroleum from Oil City, Pennsylvania, he could tell them some chemical facts about petroleum. I made a bet with him that he would (to page 3