

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

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MARYLAND SECTION
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THE OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Maryland Section will be held on Friday, October 29, when Dr. Walter S. Koski will address the Section. For the last six years Dr. Koski, now Associate Professor of Chemistry at The Johns Hopkins University, has been working with the Manhattan District and the Atomic Energy Commission at Los Alamos and Brookhaven on the utilization of atomic energy. This work has involved the use of an atomic pile as a research tool. Recently he has been studying micro-wave spectroscopy, a development using ultra-short radio waves for the determination of fundamental physical, chemical and nuclear properties. This work has been performed at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, which is operated by the Associated Universities, Inc. under contract with the United States Atomic Energy Commission as a center for fundamental research into the nature, behavior and use of nuclear forces. Dr. Koski's topic will be "The Brookhaven National Laboratory and its Relation to Scientists in the East". This will be the first opportunity for the Section to hear an account of recent work and plans for the future in this tremendously important field from a man who has been intimately connected with it for a number of years.

Dr. Koski is a native of Pennsylvania, and received the Ph.D. degree from the Johns Hopkins University in 1942. He was a research chemist at Hercules Powder Company before beginning his work with the Manhattan Project.

The dinner preceding the meeting will be held at the Johns Hopkins Club. Reservations must be made before noon on Thursday, October 27, with Dr. A. H. Corwin, Department of Chemistry, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 48 - 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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RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE ACS, LOCAL AND NATIONAL

Elections Election time is coming around in the ACS too; and about November 1 ACS members will receive ballots for the first member vote for the President-Elect of the Society. Members of the Fourth District (which includes Maryland) will also vote for a Regional Director from this district. The ballot endorsement of good men for these offices is important, since the officers are important in maintaining the well-being of the Society. This is the first time that all members of the Society have voted directly for candidates for these offices; previous practice involved nomination by the members and election by the Council. Participation in voting by a large percentage of the members is obviously desirable in any democratic election, so when your ballot comes in November don't push it aside to be lost. Vote then and there and mail the ballot back.

Nominations The Maryland Section will hold its own elections soon, and the Nominating Committee is at work. They must nominate candidates for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, members of the Executive Committee and one or two Councillors (the terms of two Councillors continue). The Committee will be glad to receive the names of members who might be considered for these offices. Anyone interested should communicate with the Committee Chairman, Dr. John Krantz, Department of Pharmacology, University of Maryland, Lombard and Greene Streets, Baltimore 1.

Awards Each year the committees responsible consider the qualifications of those proposed as possible recipients of the various awards administered by the ACS. There are now ten of these awards for distinguished services to chemistry and outstanding research in pure chemistry. Any member of the ACS may propose names for these awards. The procedure for nominations, which are due January 1, is summarized in C&EN, September 27, Page 2867. The Maryland Section Secretary, Dr. H. H. Lloyd, has additional information.

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KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

The name cards provided by Chairman Herculson and his committee at the September meeting were very successful. Their continued use at future meetings should make us all better acquainted. They are, moreover, a welcome help to weak memories!

PHILADELPHIA SECTION MEETING-IN-MINIATURE

The Philadelphia Section is planning a Meeting-in-Miniature to be held on Thursday, January 20, and is inviting papers for presentation at that time. Subject divisions include analytical, biological, industrial, organic, petroleum and physical chemistry. Those wishing further information may communicate with Dr. James M. Sprague, Sharp and Dohme, Inc., Glenolden, Pennsylvania.

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THE "SEALTEST" LABORATORY

The old Baltimore "Sealtest Labs", now rechristened the "National Dairy Research Laboratories, Inc.", moved last spring from Baltimore to Oakdale, Long Island, to occupy the mansion at Idlehour formerly owned by W. K. Vanderbilt. Your editor, who grew up in that neighborhood, had the pleasure of visiting these exciting new quarters this summer, and believes that other Baltimore chemists may be interested in knowing about the laboratories of their old neighbors, now moved on to greater glory.

Dr. Arnold Johnson and his staff, many of whom went with him from Baltimore, are established in a laboratory that seems to leave little to be desired in space or equipment. The old coach house - big even for a Vanderbilt - has been converted into a machine shop and a pilot plant with adjacent laboratories. The mansion itself has been used for laboratories, offices and reception quarters. The laboratories are beautiful to look at, and admirably equipped, and should encourage scientific work of high quality. The reception quarters are even more impressive - your editor, in fact, was bowled over. The actual living quarters in the old mansion have been restored and refurnished, so that a visitor may rest in the drawing room or the ballroom before going upstairs to offices which are still equipped with the beautiful marble fireplaces for which the old chateau was famous. The library is still so used, and the elaborate wood carvings in the present dining room would dress up any meal. Those overworked words used when the house was built - "sumptuous" and "elegant" - seem the only fitting words to use in describing the new home of our old "Sealtest" friends - a far cry from the Eutaw Street days. If you can get there, go to Oakdale to see old friends in a new setting.

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Recent additions to the books at Pratt Library include:
 Elsevier's Encyclopedia of Organic Chemistry -- current volumes
 Emmons -- Gas Dynamics Tables for Air (1947)
 Hall and Insley -- Phase Diagrams for Ceramists (1947)
 Kirkbride -- Chemical Engineering Fundamentals (1947)
 Sheely -- Production of Synthetic Fatty Acids (1947)
 Shriner and Fuson -- The Systematic Identification of Organic
 Compounds (1948)
 White -- Literature Survey on the Low-temperature Properties of
 Metals (1947)

NEXT MEETING October 29 TIME 8:30 P.M.
PLACE Room 404, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins, Charles & 34th Sts
SPEAKER Dr. Walter S. Koski SUBJECT The Brookhaven National
Laboratory and its Relation to Scientists in the East
DINNER Johns Hopkins Club, Hopkins Campus, at 6:30 P.M.
The meeting is open to any who may be interested in attending.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING will be held on Friday, November 19, when Dr. Joseph Walker, of the Department of Legal Medicine at Harvard, and the Massachusetts State Police Laboratories, will speak on "Toxicology and Chemistry in Crime Detection".

REMSEN THE CHEMIST AND TEACHER

Alfred R. L. Dohme

(Editor's note: These sketches of student life with Dr. Remsen are continued from the May issue. Dr. Dohme was one of Ira Remsen's graduate students.)

Remsen was an M.D. as well as a Ph.D., and his M.D. came into play once when a very unusual thing happened. I was preparing benzene sulfuric acid by heating benzene and sulfuric acid in a flask on a sand bath. While watching this a loud explosion occurred near my desk, six glass windows were broken and the concentrated sulfuric acid was blown into my face and all over my clothes. Remsen was fortunately in his office and, hearing the explosion, rushed in. Seeing me full of hot sulfuric acid he put my head into the water basin on the desk and soused me with water ad libitum, covered my head, face and neck with vaseline, wrote a prescription and called a cab. Some of my fellow students took me home, as I could not see with my face and head in bandages soaked with vaseline. It seems that another student, R. O. Graham, working next to me, had previously been preparing diazo compounds and apparently left some of them on the desk. It was this dried diazo compound which for some unknown reason had exploded, blowing out six of the large laboratory windows and going up into smoke, as one of the students, Joseph Hoeing Kastle, had observed. After that experience diazo compounds were always made outside the laboratory, as were isosulfocyanides with their so-called unbearable, indescribable odor.

At the Hopkins laboratories there was some excitement when, in my work upon my thesis, I was trying to produce the anhydride of orthosulfobenzoic acid. At that time it was generally held that sulfuric acids would not form anhydrides, due to their hygroscopic properties. I mixed the acid with phosphorus pentoxide and was subliming it on a sand bath. All the students and Remsen were around the hood watching the operation. Suddenly clear, colorless octagonal crystals appeared upon the glass tube and there was a shout from the group. These crystals were put into a desiccator immediately, then into the combustion tube for immediate analysis. Surely enough, the anhydride was formed and we knew that sulfuric acids could yield anhydrides.