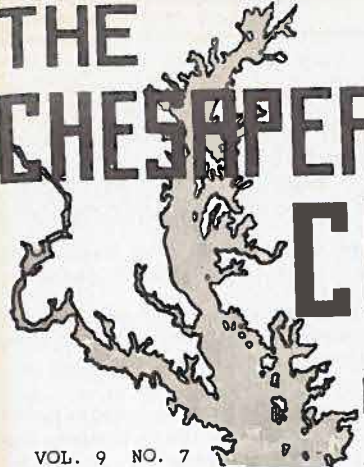


OCTOBER 1953

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST



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THE OCTOBER MEETING

SPECIAL ATTENTION is called to a change in plans for the October meeting, announced in the September issue as the customary annual meeting at the Army Chemical Center. This program has been postponed until next spring because of the unusual opportunity of engaging as a speaker Dr. B. Holmstedt, an internationally recognized authority on nerve gases, before he returns to Sweden late in October. The Executive Committee authorizes the Program Chairman to make such changes in order to take advantage of special opportunities.

Dr. Holmstedt is on the staff of the Caroline Institute, Stockholm, and is about to assume his duties as Docent in the Department of Pharmacology there. He is visiting in the United States on a fellowship. The subject of his talk to the Maryland Section will be "The Chemistry and Pharmacology of the Nerve Gases," representing the field in which he has done much distinguished work under the auspices of the Swedish National Defense authorities, following the end of World War II.

The so-called "nerve gases" are among a group of organic phosphorus compounds of high toxicity and which exert a characteristic action on animals. This class of compounds was discovered in Germany before World War II in the course of a systematic search for improved insecticides. The possible usefulness of these materials in chemical warfare was recognized by the Germans, and soon attracted the attention of military authorities in other nations. As a result, much of the fundamental work has been screened by military secrecy. Dr. Holmstedt, however, is one of the few scientists who have published the results of work in this field, and his talk will afford chemists and civil defense personnel a rare opportunity to obtain authoritative information on a very important subject. The speaker will sketch the history of the nerve gas compounds, and will tell something of their structures and syntheses, and describe the main features of their toxic action. (to page 3)

Section Officers

Chairman	Winslow H. Hartford, Mutual Chemical Company of America, Baltimore 34
Vice-Chairman	William H. Summerson, Chemical Corps, Army Chemical Center, Maryland
Secretary	H. H. Lloyd, Goucher College, Baltimore 4
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DR. WILLIAM M. THORNTON, JR.

This issue of our local publication would not be complete if we failed to express the regret of the Maryland Section upon the death of Dr. William M. Thornton, Jr. on September 22. His long and distinguished career both as teacher and research man is familiar to many chemists in this area, especially to those who were among his students. The profession at large knows Dr. Thornton by his numerous research papers published in foreign as well as in American journals, and his important monograph on titanium, commissioned a number of years ago by the American Chemical Society. Even with the rapid pace of modern research, this work is still of tremendous value and is frequently consulted in connection with the growing importance of the metal:

Dr. Thornton came to Johns Hopkins as a Fellow-by-Courtesy in the Department of Chemistry for the year 1916-17. From 1919 to 1937 he was Associate in Chemistry there. From 1939 to 1943, he did work for the Government at Loyola College, and then remained on the staff to teach spot analysis and physical measurements. At the age of 69 he was still busy, and was about to resume another year at Loyola at the time of his death. We express here our deep sympathy to his family and close associates.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1953

The section chairman, Dr. Hartford, has appointed the following nominating committee for 1953: Leslie Hellerman, chairman; Channing Wilson, Raymond Costa, J. Elston Ahlberg, George Hager, and H. H. Lloyd, ex officio. At the November meeting, this committee will present a slate for the following: vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer; a councillor and an alternate for a three-year term, a provisional councillor and an alternate for a term yet to be determined by the ACS office, and five members of the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions, which must be placed with Dr. Hellerman (ORleans 5-4700, Ext. 50) not later than October 23, to permit inclusion of a final committee report in the November issue of THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST.

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SAVE Friday, November 20 for the annual election of officers, and a meeting of "special interest" type, with several papers.

from page 1) October Meeting

Encourage your friends who are in science or who are interested in civil defense problems to publicize and to attend this meeting. The usual dinner for members is by reservation only, and the detailed information is given on the inclosed card. Please note and return this card promptly to Dr. W. H. Summerson at 501 W. University Parkway, Baltimore 10 (telephones TUXedo 9-8787 or BELmont 5-0400).

WASHINGTON SECTION

The Section Chairman and a few others of the Executive Committee attended the October meeting of the Washington Section on October 8 at the New Cosmos Club (Washington). The speaker was Joel H. Hildebrand, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, the University of California. The title of his very stimulating talk was "The Production of Scientists." The next meeting of the section will be on Thursday, November 12, at 8:45 P.M. At that time, Dr. R. L. Gibson, of the Johns Hopkins Institute of Applied Physics at Silver Spring, will give a talk presenting various applications of scientific approaches and methods in the service of the fine arts.

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There is considerable activity at the graduate level in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore. At present, twelve students are working for advanced degrees under Dr. Hager, Dr. Miller, and Mr. Stezzi. Current research effort is centered around chemical structure-biological activity relationship, and the isolation and determination of structures of natural products.

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The following is a continuation from the September issue of a list of new members added to the Maryland Section during the first part of 1953:

FLAHERTY, Patrick H., Baltimore; FORBES, Richard W., Baltimore; GAMMILL, Adrian M., Baltimore; GARDNER, William M., Jr., Baltimore; GAY, William H., Baltimore; GIBBONS, Patricia W., Baltimore; GLASER, Richard H., Baltimore; GLICKMAN, Walter, Frederick; GORDIEYEFF, Vladimir A., Army Chem. C.; GRAHAM, B. W., Baltimore; GRANTHAM, Daniel H., Edgewood; GROCELA, Raymond G., Army Chem. C.; GROSS, Robert J., Baltimore; HASS, E. G., Baltimore; HAEFKA, D. J., Army Chem. C.; HALFPENNY, Melvin L., Baltimore; HAMLIN, Robert P., Baltimore; HAUS, Irwin C., Edgewood; HAYS, Donald R., Army Chem. C.; HEISLER, Julius (no address); HENDRICKSON, John R., Bel Air; HEYMAN, Jack J., Frederick; HOELSCHER, Harold E., Baltimore; HOFFMANN, E. David, Baltimore; HOKE, Charles E., Army Chem. C.; HOOPER, Margaret V., Owings Mills; HOROWITZ, Paul, Army Chem. Center; HORSEMAN, James A., Baltimore; HUMPHRIES, James R., Edgewood; HURD, Clifford T., Baltimore; INGRAM, Robert R., Baltimore; INTORRE, Benjamin J., Army Chem. C.; JAROS, Robert J., Baltimore; JASAITIS, John J., Baltimore; JESSEE, Gene L., Baltimore. (to be continued)

NEXT MEETING Friday, October 23 TIME 8:30 P.M.
PLACE Room 1, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins
Charles & 34th Streets
SPEAKER Dr. B. Holmstedt, Caroline Institute, Stockholm
SUBJECT The Chemistry and Pharmacology of the Nerve Gases
DINNER 6:30, The Johns Hopkins Club
Charles & 34th Streets

The meeting is open to all who are interested in this important subject. Save Friday, November 20 for a "special interest" meeting.

MEETING OF THE ACS COUNCIL, CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER, 1953

This meeting was attended by all the Maryland Section Councilors--Giles B. Cooke, A. H. Corwin, and Belle Otto. The full minutes will appear in an October issue of C & E News, but some of the items appear to be of sufficient local interest to warrant a listing here.

Committee on Chemical Education--recommended that local sections take more interest in their student affiliate chapters, and make an effort to keep in touch with young ACS members serving in the Armed Forces, partly by mailing to them local section publications.

Council Committee on Professional Relations--a sub-committee will undertake a study of unions which include chemists in their membership.

Clinical Chemistry--those interested in licensure in this field should watch for a detailed report.

Self-employed Chemists--a recent poll of this group was defective because certain large groups were omitted. A new poll will be taken with a sample size of 2500, and will include consideration of proposed changes in the social security laws. All chemists who are self-employed or who engage in part-time consulting should watch for this poll and the results thereof.

Representation in the ACS National Organization--President Daniels stated that one in every 165 ACS members is serving on some national committee of the Society. This fact, plus the use of the Council meetings as a discussion forum, and the holding of open meetings by the standing committees point up our democratic organization. (We suggest you file a list of the standing committees in order to make good use of this link between the individual member and the Council).

Councillor/Member Ratio for Local Sections--this figure remains one to 280. A slight increase in section membership would give the Maryland Section another councillor. Bring in the new members!

Kansas City Meeting, March 24-April 1, 1954--The schedule of this meeting is experimental, the first to be held over parts of two weeks in the same city, with the intervening week-end devoted to business meetings of the Council, its committees, and to the general meeting and mixer.

Submitted by Belle Otto

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