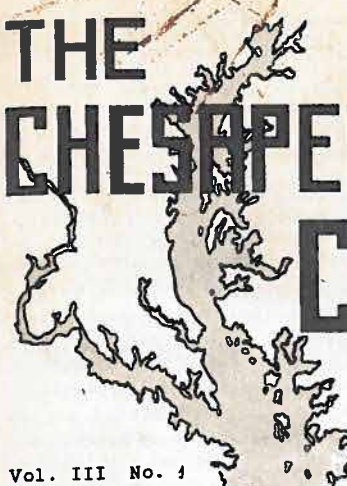


THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST



JANUARY 1947

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Vol. III No. 1

THE JANUARY MEETING

The speaker at the January meeting will be Dr. G. Albert Hill, Chairman of the Department of Chemistry at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut. He will talk on "Poison Ivy and Ivy Poisoning," a subject of personal importance to many of us.

Dr. Hill did his undergraduate work at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and graduate work at Harvard, and taught at both institutions before going to Wesleyan. He has served the Connecticut Valley Section as chairman and as councillor. He is director of Wesleyan Industrial Scientific Research, an organization to promote research in pure and applied science and develop the educational aspects of research for undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Hill's own research has been in organic chemistry, chiefly on ketones, anthocyanins, poison ivy and the components of horse chestnuts. He is coauthor, with Dr. Louise Kelley (of the Maryland Section), of two textbooks of organic chemistry. During the war Dr. Hill was Official Investigator on two projects for OSRD. The Army Ordnance Department is continuing one of these under the title Ordwes, to carry out fundamental research on certain ordnance problems. Dr. Hill is Chairman of the Consultative Board of Ordwes.

Dr. Hill has been an active civic worker, and is serving the State of Connecticut as a member of the State Water Commission and as President of the Connecticut State Highway Safety Association. In Middletown he is Chairman of the Charter Revision and Tax Review Committee, advisor to the Mayor on problems of water supply, and Chairman of the Middletown Airport Study Commission.

Dr. Hill's discussion of the poison ivy problem will include comment upon other related toxic plants. He will consider their distribution, the nature of the poisonous component, and skin sensitivity to the poison. Remedies without number (to page 3

Section Officers

Chairman Giles B. Cooke, 502 Yarmouth Road, Baltimore 4
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 Secy-Treas. P. K. Leatherman, 1213 Windemere Avenue, Baltimore 18

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST is published each month from September through May by the Maryland Section, American Chemical Society. Editor: Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 18, Maryland.

With this issue THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST begins its third volume. At this time the editor is happy to acknowledge the generous aid of H. H. Lloyd, the support and suggestions of the other members of the Publication Committee — Walter Hartung and P. K. Leatherman — and the active cooperation of many members of the Section. The high quality of the off-set reproduction is a credit to the Acorn Printing Company and Mr. Oscar DeMeike. No editor could ask for more effective or willing cooperation than has been offered by Mr. DeMeike, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge his helpfulness.

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MARYLAND SECTION NEWS

The following chemists have recently joined the Maryland Section. We welcome them to our group and hope that they will plan to participate in all of our local chemical activities.

Akell, Robert B.	Holcomb, William T.
Beach, Paul L.	Layton, Laurence L.
Belth, Sanford M.	Marfing, Thomas E.
Black, George H.	Marous, Leonard F.
Bowen, Joshua Shelton, Jr.	Marquand, Carl B.
Chambers, Leslie A.	Mayer, Manfred
Christian, W. Ramsey	McCracken, Elizabeth
Cullen, Gilbert H.	McGoury, Thomas M.
Dewey, Charles S.	Miller, William D.
Dziewiatkowski, Dominic D.	Mitman, Floyd B., Jr., Major
Ege, John F., Jr.	Olson, Frank R.
Fleischer, Joseph H., Pvt.	Phillips, Charles R.
Fox, Robert L.	Rummel, J. K.
Frazer, Joseph H.	Sandel, Paul E.
Glassman, Irvin	Smith, Weston E.

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The Enoch Pratt Free Library deserves high commendation for planning and sponsoring the Atomic Energy Institute, currently in progress at the Main Library. The Institute, which should receive the serious attention of every citizen (including chemists), consists of a series of Sunday afternoon lectures by speakers of national prominence, a series of Tuesday noon movies, and an exhibit open daily to the public. All meetings and exhibits are free. All events are concerned with atomic energy in its political, scientific, industrial and humanistic aspects. If you have not visited the Institute, plan to do so next Sunday.

from page 4) The Bureau of Chemistry consists of a central laboratory in Baltimore and one branch laboratory located in Cambridge on the Eastern Shore. In 1945, 7,287 analyses, requiring 41,650 determinations, were made of about 320 different items in the aforementioned groups. In addition to the standard procedures found in analytical chemistry and microscopy, it is occasionally necessary to employ physical instruments—refractometer, polarimeter, fluorimeter, X-ray, and petrographic microscope—to complete the examinations.

Seminars on topics of pertinent chemical and public health interest are held twice monthly from October through May for the benefit of the staff. The Bureau has a library of about 400 volumes covering the fields of work described. Included are complete sets of Mellor's Comprehensive Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry, Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis, Winton and Winton's Structure and Composition of Foods, and the International Critical Tables. In addition to the periodicals of the American Chemical Society, the library contains complete files of the Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, and the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and volumes of the Analyst since 1930. All books and periodicals are available at the Bureau to interested chemists.

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THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SECTION FOR 1947

The Executive Committee for the current year will consist of those members elected at the December meeting and all resident past chairmen. The personnel of the committee will be:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Past Chairmen</u>	
Giles B. Cooke	H. A. B. Dunning	D. H. Andrews
J. A. Herculson	Fitzgerald Dunning	Wilton Harden
P. K. Leatherman	Edward S. Hopkins	W. H. Hartung
<u>Councillors</u>	John C. Krantz, Jr.	H. H. Lloyd
C. Jelleff Carr	Wm. F. Reindollar	E. E. Reid
A. H. Corwin	C. P. VanGundy	C. W. Wilson
Leslie Hellerman	<u>Members-at-large</u>	
Duncan MacRae	Charles Bramble	Sylvan Forman
Belle Otto	Winslow Hartford	F. C. Hettinger
E. Emmet Reid	Arnold H. Johnson	Carl Zappfe

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The Chemistry Library of The Johns Hopkins University has use for a set of Chemical Abstracts for the year 1946. Anyone who is willing to donate these issues may notify Miss Jeannette Parran, Librarian, Department of Chemistry, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 18, Maryland; UNIVERSITY CLOO, Extension 60.

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from page 1) have been proposed for this affliction, and these will be evaluated. Dr. Hill will also discuss the recent work of Mason and Dawson in the synthesis of the allergens, and the possible uses of such substances.

NEXT MEETING

8:30 P. M., Friday, January 31

PLACE Room 101, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins, Charles & 34th Sts.

SPEAKER Dr. G. A. Hill SUBJECT Poison Ivy and Ivy Poisoning

The meeting is open to anyone who may be interested in attending.

Save Friday, Feb. 28, to hear W. A. Noyes, Jr., President of ACS

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH CHESAPEAKE CHEMISTRY, VII

CHEMISTRY IN THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(Courtesy of William F. Reindollar)

The need for chemical service was recognized early in the development of the public health program in Maryland. On May 6, 1874, following an Act passed by the General Assembly, the State Board of Health was organized, and in 1887 this same legislative body provided for the appointment by the Board of "a suitable person who shall have been actually engaged in this state as an analytical chemist for at least ten years prior to his appointment, as chemist to the State Board of Health, . . . The chemist, under the direction and control of the State Board of Health and the Director thereof, shall have charge of the analyses and examination of foods, drugs and other substances which shall be submitted to him for examination. . ."

As time passed, the need became apparent for a more expanded and specialized organization to administer the increasing problems of public health, with the result that in 1910 the State Department of Health was created as the functional agency to implement the program developed by the Board of Health. Six bureaus were established, known as the Bureaus of Communicable Diseases, Bacteriology, Chemistry, Sanitary Engineering, Vital Statistics, and Child Hygiene. It was the duty of the Bureau of Chemistry at that time to make analyses of foods and food products offered for consumption in the State, of drugs and medicines used in the treatment, mitigation, or cure of disease, and of water samples taken periodically from all public supplies. The purpose of such chemical examinations is two-fold: (1) to protect the consumer by preventing the sale or distribution of such articles as might be dangerous or detrimental to health; and (2) to prevent cheating or defrauding through the sale of goods that, while not necessarily harmful, are adulterated, unsanitary, or of inferior quality.

When the pollution of streams by sewage effluents and trade and industrial wastes began to threaten fish life, contaminate sources of water supply and render areas unsuitable for bathing and boating, it became necessary to set up a special laboratory in the Bureau for the analyses of samples of this type. Other developments in the public health field have required the establishment of special facilities for examining products in industry capable of causing occupational illnesses, such as toxic gases, dusts, mists, fumes, and smokes, and for the analysis of blood in connection with non-infectious diseases, nutritional deficiencies or the presence of industrial poisons. (to page 3