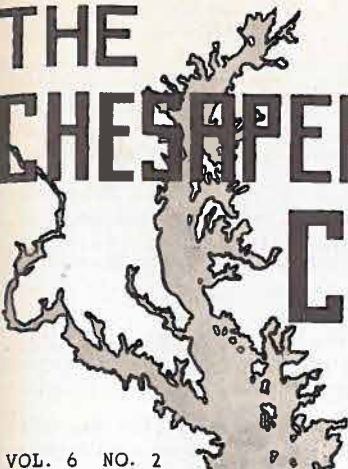


THE
CHESAPEAKE
CHEMIST



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THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The Maryland Section will hold its next meeting on Friday, February 24, on the Homewood Campus. The speaker will be Dr. John R. Johnson, Professor of Chemistry at Cornell University, whose topic will be "The Biosynthesis of Terpenes and Rubber."

Dr. Johnson received his undergraduate and graduate chemical training at the University of Illinois. Upon completion of his doctoral work in 1922, Dr. Johnson went to France for two years to study at the College de France as an American Field Service Fellow. He then served as instructor in chemistry at his Alma Mater. In 1927 he joined the faculty of Cornell University, where he is now professor of organic chemistry. In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Johnson has served as a consultant with duPont since 1937. During the war he was a science liaison officer with the OSRD in London (1942-1945) and served as a civilian with the Office of Rubber Reserve. He has served on the editorial or advisory boards of Organic Syntheses since 1933 and has been a member of the editorial board of Organic Reactions since this series began publication. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the London Chemical Society. Dr. Johnson's work in chemistry has touched diverse aspects of the field of organic chemistry, particularly organic boron compounds, explosives, ketene derivatives, furan derivatives, dienes, the mechanism of reactions, the structure of gliotoxin and the biosynthesis of isoprene derivatives.

With such a background Dr. Johnson is well qualified to discuss the topic chosen for our meeting. The terpenes and similar isoprenoid structures, such as vitamin A, the carotenes, rubber and gutta percha, are widely distributed in nature and are produced by a great variety of plants. Several theories have been advanced to account for the biochemical transformations involved

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Section Officers

Chairman Alsoph H. Corwin, Department of Chemistry,
The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 18
Vice-chairman Charles E. Brambel, Mercy Hospital, Baltimore 2
Secretary-treasurer H. H. Lloyd, Goucher College, Baltimore 18

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

MARYLAND SECTION BUSINESS

The envelope which brought this issue of The Chesapeake Chemist contained a number of enclosures. All pertain to Maryland Section affairs and deserve close and prompt attention.

ByLaws The ACS Constitution in Article XII, section 5a, says "Each Local Section shall make bylaws for its own government, which shall be subject to the approval of the Council of the Society." Bylaws for the Maryland Section have been drawn up by the committee named for the purpose (Channing W. Wilson, Chairman), scrutinized carefully by your own Executive Committee, examined and found acceptable by national headquarters, and are now ready for submission to Maryland Section members. They deserve careful reading. The Committee realizes that no such proposals are ever perfect, and will welcome and consider fully any suggestions from members about amendments to these bylaws. A ballot card has been provided for the registration of opinion. These cards should be returned to the secretary before March 20.

Professional affiliation Mention is made on page 3 of the desirability of making greater efforts to meet the various interests of section members. Nowhere, however, does the Executive Committee or any one else have access to information about what kind of chemistry Maryland chemists practice or where they do it. In order to obtain this information, the Secretary, on authorization of the Executive Committee, is distributing with this issue cards calling for a minimum of information about each member. Fill it out now, while you are thinking about it, attach a penny stamp and mail it (it is already addressed).

Dues Receipts are enclosed for those who have paid their 1950 dues, and reminders for those who have not. The treasurer will appreciate receiving payment from the latter, and will also appreciate notice of any errors which may have been made in his records of those who have already paid.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES

The Executive Committee met on January 24th at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Alsoph Corwin, with the chairman presiding and twelve members present.

Suggestions were made with regard to the personnel of the six standing committees: program; membership; publicity; publications;

Remsen Memorial Lecture; national nominations and awards. Final decision was left in the hands of the chairman, who will announce shortly the names of at least the chairmen of these committees. It was agreed that the committee on national nominations and awards should become active and should probably have one member to work on Society officer nominees and another on award nominees.

The Secretary reported that, according to announcement from Mr. Emery, the Maryland Section had grown 7 percent during 1949 to a membership of 746, but is entitled to only three councillors because of an increase in the divisor to 250. Five more members would have entitled us to another councillor! In this connection it was decided to ask the membership committee to redouble its efforts to recruit new members and to reduce the considerable number of members who drop out.

The value of having a committee on publications was pointed out by Belle Otto, editor of The Chesapeake Chemist. The editor was praised for her successful work and was supported in her policies and choice of enterprises.

It was decided to ask the secretary to ascertain, by means of a reply card, the professional affiliation of each member of the Section, and then to prepare a Section Directory. It was further agreed that the directory would be kept restricted.

The 1950 meeting at Army Chemical Center was set for the month of October, with Dr. MacRae and Dr. Rueggeberg in charge of planning. The hope was expressed that Camp Detrick members could be included in the plans this year. Revival of former practice of holding one meeting in Westminster was favorably commented on, and the possibility is to be looked into.

Ways and means of improving hospitality at meetings were discussed, in connection with a letter received by the chairman from a member. The appointment of a special committee on hospitality was favored. The possibility of finding a room better suited to informality than a classroom in Remsen Hall was considered. As another means of promoting interest, decision was made to investigate the idea (suggested by a member of the Section) of forming special interest groups, and when feasible to try an experiment with one interest group meeting.

For the special committee on Bylaws, Dr. Wilson reported that our proposed set of Bylaws had been approved by the Council Policy Committee. It was agreed that copies be distributed to the Section members along with a card for registering approval or disapproval and suggestions.

It was agreed that chairmen of standing committees, if not members of the Executive Committee, should be invited to sit in on all meetings of the Executive Committee.

The chairman was authorized to extend the greetings of the Maryland Section to the newly formed Ohio Valley Section.

H. H. Lloyd, Secretary



NEXT MEETING February 24 TIME 8:30 P. M.
PLACE Room 401, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins,
Charles & 34th Streets
SPEAKER John R. Johnson
SUBJECT The Biosynthesis of Terpenes
and Rubber
DINNER 6:30, The Johns Hopkins Club,
Charles & 34th Streets
The dinner is open to members and their guests.
The meeting is open to any who are interested.

Dr. Johnson

from page 1) The February Meeting, continued
in these syntheses, but only recently has this subject been at-
tacked experimentally. A cooperative study by botanists and or-
ganic chemists is now in progress at Cornell, in which a selected
group of compounds is being tested to establish the particular
organic substances that serve as immediate precursors of the iso-
prene units involved in plant syntheses. The results thus far
have given several significant clues and are consistent with the
theory that the condensation of pyruvic acid with acetone is the
initial step of the mechanism of isoprenoid syntheses.

A dinner in honor of Dr. Johnson will be held at the Johns
Hopkins Club at 6:30. Reservations must be made before noon on
Thursday, February 23, with Dr. Charles E. Brambel, Mercy Hospi-
tal, Baltimore 2, Saratoga 5400, extension 24.

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THE CATALYSIS CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The formation of local special interest groups in chemistry
has been mentioned elsewhere in this issue. One such special
group has been organizing in the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Balti-
more area, and Maryland chemists may wish to know about it.

A group of chemists interested in catalysis met for an all day
symposium at the University of Pennsylvania in the spring of 1949.
Papers were given on the nature of silica alumina catalysis, the
oxidation of acetylene and the use of a mass spectrometer in iden-
tifying and determining the products of catalyzed reactions. An
evening meeting was held in the fall of 1949, at which postulated
catalytic mechanisms involved in the synthesis of hydrocarbons
from carbon monoxide and hydrogen were presented and discussed.
Speakers at the meetings have included P. H. Emmett, A. V. Grosse,
R. C. Hansford, G. A. Mills, T. I. Taylor and K. A. Krieger.

Attendance approximated one hundred for each meeting, and after
the second meeting the group organized as "The Catalysis Club of
Philadelphia." Dr. A. A. Farkas of Barrett was elected president,
Dr. A. G. Oblad, of Houdry Process Corporation, secretary-treas-
urer. It is planned to hold an evening meeting in March or April
and an all day symposium in June. Marylanders may be placed on
the mailing list by calling Dr. J. E. Ahlberg at Baltimore tele-
phones CURtis 1900 or CHesc,jeake 8743, or by writing to the chair-
man of the membership committee, Dr. F. G. Ciapetti, 909 Pembroke
Avenue, East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

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