

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

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THE APRIL MEETING

The Maryland Section will hold its next meeting on Thursday evening, April 26, in Room 1 at Remsen Hall on the Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus. The speaker will be Dr. Joseph R. Spies, who will speak on "The Chemistry and Some Physiological Properties of Oilseed Allergens".

Dr. Spies and his colleagues, Dr. E. J. Coulson and Dr. Henry Stevens, were honored on March 8 by the Washington Section of the American Chemical Society when they received the Hillebrand Prize in recognition of their "contributions in the isolation and chemical and immunological characterization of allergens of agricultural products". All three men are chemists of the Allergen Research Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Their work has included much study of the allergens of cottonseed oil and other edible oils, and they have been successful in separating and purifying by chemical means the antigens responsible for the allergic reaction from naturally occurring allergens. They have made antigenic studies of these substances in allergic individuals and experimental animals, and have characterized the natural allergens chemically.

Dr. Spies will talk to the Maryland Section on a part of this allergen work, describing important results of research on the allergens of oilseeds carried on during the past fifteen years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The principal allergenic activity of cottonseed, castor beans and several other oilseeds is due to a class of proteins called "natural proteoses". The term natural proteose is used to show that while these substances have chemical properties similar to nonantigenic derived proteoses, they are highly antigenic, preformed components of the seeds. The isolation, chemical properties, composition and immunological and clinical properties of the natural proteoses will be the basis of Dr. Spies' discussion. (to page 2

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 Editor: Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 4, Maryland.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEETING

The ACS is seventy-five years old in 1951, and plans are now crystallizing for the celebration meeting in New York in September. Full details about this meeting have appeared, and will appear, in Chemical and Engineering News. But since we sometimes do not see the woods for the trees, mention of the unique quality of the meeting as a whole, rather than enumeration of its many parts, may not be amiss.

It is not often that organizations like the ACS hold such meetings as this, because such occasions arise infrequently and then may pass without special attention. Our birthday celebration will be noteworthy. In September the ACS will open the International Chemical Conclave with a five-day meeting devoted to symposia on important developments in the field of chemistry. The meeting will offer an opportunity to see and hear the masters in the various branches of our science, the chemical great and near-great from all over the world. The lesser, every-day chemists should find stimulation and exhilaration in such meetings. The Twelfth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry, whose meetings follow those of the ACS, will furnish a continuing source of inspiration. Many honors will be awarded, and the list of "visiting notables", chemical and political, is impressive.

September seems a long way off now, but it is not too soon to make plans and reservations. The distance from Baltimore to New York is not great, so many Marylanders should be able to avail themselves of the opportunity to attend these meetings. It is an opportunity which does not come along often in a life time.

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from page 1) The April Meeting

Dr. Spies is a native of South Dakota and received his undergraduate training at the state university there. He was a graduate assistant in chemistry at the University of Maryland from 1928 to 1929 and then spent eight months as chemist with Chemical Warfare Service at Edgewood Arsenal. He returned to the University of Maryland in 1930 to work on insecticides for the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and to do graduate work, obtaining an M.S. in 1931 and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry in 1934. Since 1936 he has conducted research on allergens of oilseeds and other agricultural products at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Spies is well known also for his work on plant (to page 3

from page 2) The April Meeting
 insecticides, amino acids, particularly tryptophane, and micro-analytical methods.

Preceding the lecture, the Section will hold a dinner in honor of the speaker. Dinner will be served at 6:30 at the Johns Hopkins Club on the Homewood Campus, and is open to members of the Section and their guests. Reservations should be made by Wednesday noon, April 25, with Dr. Leslie Hellerman, Department of Physiological Chemistry, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore 5, phone ORleans 4700, or with the secretary, Mrs. Corliiss, at the same number.

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NEWS ITEMS ABOUT MARYLAND CHEMISTS

Dr. John C. Krantz, Jr., Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at the Medical School of the University of Maryland, has been serving as Acting Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Noxious Fumes. Dr. Krantz is a former Chairman of the Maryland Section.

The March 1951 issue of the Scientific Monthly contains an article by Dr. Giles B. Cooke of Crown Cork and Seal Company's Research Department on "Cork, Bark of the Exotic Quercus Suber". Dr. Cooke is another former Chairman of the Maryland Section who has long been active in Section affairs.

The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia will hold a symposium on "Catalysis and Reaction Mechanisms" on Saturday, April 28, at the Engineering Building of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Professor Walter A. Patrick of the Department of Chemistry of The Johns Hopkins University will present papers entitled "The Properties of Hydrogen-free Iron and Nickel" and "The Properties of Highly Desiccated Silica Gel". Both papers are considered by those familiar with the field to be of fundamental importance in the search for understanding of the chemistry of catalytic action. Any Maryland chemists interested in attending this symposium should communicate with Dr. J. Elston Ahlberg at The Davison Chemical Corporation in Baltimore.

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from page 4) Chemistry in the Baltimore Schools of the Univ. of Md.
 supervision of Dr. E. G. Schmidt, Professor of Biological Chemistry and head of the department.

The Department of Biochemistry in the School of Dentistry is headed by Dr. E. G. Vanden Bosche. Graduate courses in chemistry are now offered in this department as part of the graduate teaching program of the Dental School.

(Editor's note: Dr. Carr is Associate Professor of Pharmacology in the School of Medicine of the University.)

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NEXT MEETING Thursday, April 26 TIME 8:30 P.M.
PLACE Room 4, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins, Charles & 34th Sts.
SPEAKER Dr. Joseph R. Spies, U.S. Department of Agriculture
SUBJECT The Chemistry and Some Physiological Properties
of Oilseed Allergens
DINNER Johns Hopkins Club, Hopkins Campus, at 6:30 P.M.
Reservations must be made by Wednesday, April 25. See page 3.
Reserve Friday, May 25, for the Remsen Lecture by Dr. H. S. Taylor.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH CHESAPEAKE CHEMISTRY

XXIV CHEMISTRY IN THE BALTIMORE SCHOOLS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

By C. Jelleff Carr

While the University of Maryland offers the major part of its instructional program in chemistry at College Park, much important research work and graduate instruction in chemistry is also carried on at the Baltimore Schools of the University. These include the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

In the School of Medicine, Dr. John C. Krantz, Jr. is chairman of the Department of Pharmacology. He has been director for a number of years of the Departmental studies in general anesthesia and hypertension. Dr. Go Lu from Tung Chi University Medical School and Mr. Johnson Ling have recently joined the staff as Research Fellows. Dr. Raymond M. Burgison of this department is currently preparing a series of xanthine derivatives for pharmacologic study. Mr. John B. Harmon has synthesized a series of imidazoline derivatives for investigation as depressor agents.

Graduate study in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry of the School of Pharmacy is conducted under the instruction of Drs. G. P. Hager and F. M. Miller. Twelve students currently enrolled are carrying on investigations dealing with isolation and identification of physiologically active products, the relationship of chemical constitution to biological activity, and the preparation of new compounds of pharmacologic interest. Drs. G. P. Hager and Noel E. Foss are cooperating in various phases of the work incident to the chemistry of medicinal products included in the United States Pharmacopeia and the National Formulary. Dr. F. M. Miller is collaborating in the preparation of an article on indole to be included in the Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology and in the preparation of a monograph on indole and carbazole.

In the Department of Biological Chemistry of the School of Medicine, two new men have been added to the department this year—Dr. R. E. Vanderlinde, formerly of the Biochemistry Department of the University of Syracuse, who will continue his research work on estrogen metabolism, and Dr. E. J. Herbst, formerly of the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Herbst will study the bacterial metabolism of putrescine, a compound which he has recently found to be an essential growth factor for certain microorganisms. The general research programs of the department on fungistatics and on phenol metabolism are continuing under the (to page 3