


# THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST



APRIL 1952

PUBLISHED BY THE  
MARYLAND SECTION  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 8 NO. 4

## THE APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Section will be held in Remsen Hall on The Johns Hopkins University Homewood campus on Friday, April 25. The speaker will be Dr. R. H. Baechler, Chemist, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, who will discuss "Chemical Factors in Wood Preservation".

Dr. Baechler is a native of Wisconsin and an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin, where he received his B.S. in 1921, M.S. in 1924 and Ph.D. in organic chemistry (minor in pharmacology) in 1927. His thesis was on the chemistry of forest products, and his interest in this field has been a permanent one. After receiving his bachelor's degree, Dr. Baechler spent two years in industrial research in cereals and pharmaceuticals. In 1922 he joined the staff of the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, where he has served continuously since that time.

Dr. Baechler's principal work has been in the chemistry of wood preservatives, including the development of new preservatives for specialized uses. In this connection, he has studied the relations between chemical constitution and wood-destroying fungi, and such properties as resistance to leaching, volatility and corrosiveness, all factors which must be evaluated in developing acceptable preservatives. Other work has included development of analytical methods for preservatives, methods of laboratory evaluation, fire retardants, and protection of wood against chemical destruction.

Dr. Baechler is a member of the ACS, of the American Society for Testing Materials Committee on Wood and Wood Products, and of the American Wood Preservers' Association. In the latter organization, he has served for several years as General Chairman of the Preservatives Committees. He is generally accepted as an authority on chemical matters in the fields of wood preservation.

(to page 2)

## Section Officers

Chairman Leslie Hellerman, Department of Physiological  
Chemistry, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore 5  
Vice-chairman Winslow H. Hartford, Mutual Chemical Company  
of America, Baltimore 31  
Secretary H. H. Lloyd, Goucher College, Baltimore 4  
Treasurer E. A. Metcalf, 907 Litchfield Road, Baltimore 42

THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST is published each month from September through May by the Maryland Section, American Chemical Society.  
Editor: Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 4, Maryland.

## THE COUNCIL MEETING IN BUFFALO

The Council of the ACS held its spring meeting on March 28. All Maryland Councillors attended. The full report of the proceedings will appear in an early issue of C&EN. Business transacted included an almost unanimous vote to eliminate honorary membership, so this change in the ACS constitution will now be submitted to the entire Society membership for vote. Old fields of interest which committees will explore anew in the coming months include the possibilities for greater cooperation between local sections and divisions, and responsibilities of the Society in encouraging a better flow of good students from the high schools into college chemistry, since the number is decreasing.

\* \* \* \* \*

from page 1) The April Meeting

Dr. Baechler's subject for his Maryland lecture is an important one. With the growing cost of wood and installation, the decline in the availability of naturally resistant woods, and the technical progress in the wood-preserving industry, the economic and conservational factors involved have made wood preservation of growing importance to both the large user and the average citizen. About three hundred million cubic feet of wood are commercially treated annually, and an increasing amount is being privately treated on farms and by individual users. A vast number of compositions for wood preservation have been suggested, but only a few have survived test. These range from creosote to various inorganic salt mixtures, so that both the organic and inorganic chemist have an interest in this field.

In his talk, Dr. Baechler will discuss the place of chemistry in wood preservation, which, like many industries, has evolved from an art to a technically controlled process during the past half-century. The recently developed double-diffusion process will be discussed, and the results which recent research has disclosed regarding the relations between chemical composition, toxicity and effectiveness in wood preservation.

A dinner in honor of the speaker will be served at 6:30 at the Johns Hopkins Club, and is open to members of the Section and their guests. Reservations should be made by Wednesday noon, April 23, with Dr. W. H. Hartford or with Mrs. Glantz at Mutual Chemical Company of America, Baltimore 31, phone ORleans 0555.

from page 4) Executive Committee Notes

Mention was made of the dinner for local section officers, councillors and interested members, in Buffalo on March 25th. A number of those planning to go to Buffalo expressed their intention of attending the dinner.

A letter was read from Col. L. G. Smith, bespeaking the cooperation of the Maryland Section in a nation-wide move by engineers to meet a present and future shortage of engineering personnel. Further details were given by Ed Hopkins. It was decided that in spite of the fact that there are very few engineers in our local membership, we should support this movement and should name a representative for Col. Smith's Maryland committee.

Consideration was given to a suggestion from the A.C.S. Committee on Local Section Activities that the territory of the Maryland Section be redefined. Following discussion, it was voted to submit the following proposal: The Maryland Section shall comprise the City of Baltimore and Maryland counties other than those in the Western Maryland Section and Prince Georges, Montgomery, Charles, St. Marys and Calvert. The retention of Anne Arundel County was insisted on because of the members who live in this county and work close to or in Baltimore. (If this proposal is acceptable to the A.C.S. committee and the Washington Section, it will be presented in the form of a by-law change to the Maryland Section for ratification.)

Correspondence was read between Major Stubblefield (Army Chemical Center) and Executive Secretary Emery with regard to needs of enlisted personnel at the Center. A report was made by Bill Summerson and Ed Metcalf, giving information obtained by them with the help of Duncan MacRae. It was decided to formulate a letter to the Commanding General at the Center, with copies to Major Stubblefield and Mr. Emery, stating the services that the Maryland Section would be prepared to render (through Dr. MacRae) to a group of enlisted chemists at the post if such a group were formed. Drs. Summerson and Metcalf agreed to frame the letter. The purpose of this action was to offer aid to, without interfering with, enlisted chemical specialists who may want to form a local club at the Center.

A letter was read from the Florida Section bespeaking our cooperation in a venture, apparently involving a number of southern sections, in connection with professional relations and status. It was decided to inform the Florida Section that we consider the matter a proper function of the A.C.S. Standing Committee on Professional Relations and Status.

A resolution was read by Alsoph Corwin, relating to developments in chemistry in the Soviet Union, prepared for presentation to the Council in Buffalo. The Soviets have begun to invade the field of chemistry as they did the field of genetics. The resolution represents an attempt to appeal by indirect channels to the minds of the Soviet people. It was decided by vote to give the backing of the Executive Committee to the resolution.

H. H. Lloyd, Secretary



NEXT MEETING April 25 TIME 8:30 P.M.  
PLACE Room 104, Remsen Hall, Johns Hopkins,  
Charles & 34th Streets  
SPEAKER Dr. R. H. Baechler  
SUBJECT Chemical Factors in Wood Preservation  
DINNER 6:30, The Johns Hopkins Club,  
Charles & 34th Streets  
The meeting is open to any who are interested.  
Save Friday, May 23, for the Remsen Lecture.

Dr. Baechler

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES

The Executive Committee met on Friday evening, March 14th at the home of Chairman and Mrs. Hellerman. Attendance: seventeen.

The Treasurer reported that 310 members have paid Section dues for 1952. It was decided to put a notice in lighter vein in the Chesapeake Chemist but not to send another bill to unpaid members.

A procedure was adopted for expressing the thanks of the Section to, besides paying the expenses of, guest speakers.

In behalf of the committee, George Hager submitted a written report on the February Meeting-in-Miniature, including recommendations for future meetings. Since the next meeting of this kind is not scheduled until the autumn of 1953, discussion of the recommendations was deferred. The committee was highly commended for the success of the February meeting.

It was suggested that if the A.C.S. continues to hold divided meetings in the spring, the Section consider the possibility of inviting the Society to Baltimore in 1955 or later. This matter was put on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

For the committee on national awards and nominations, Giles Cooke reported that one Maryland Section member has been proposed for membership on the Council Policy Committee and that three members of the Section will be nominated for various Society awards.

The secretary read a letter from Bob Fowler, summarizing the work of Remsen Memorial committee for 1952. Dr. Fowler expressed his regret in leaving Baltimore and stated that all preliminary arrangements for the Remsen Lecture on May 23rd had been completed. (Details of the Remsen meeting appeared in the March issue.)

Winslow Hartford reported on future meetings of the Section. The Camp Detrick meeting in March was arranged through fine cooperation of post authorities, the delay (which held up publication of the March issue of The Chesapeake Chemist) having been due to the absence of Dr. Schantz from the post. The committee expressed appreciation to Dr. Hartford and pleasure with the arrangements. A "family night" was proposed (Hartford and Costa) for September, with an outdoor supper if feasible and a showing of Dupont films. Reaction was favorable, and the matter was left to the discretion of the vice-chairman and the hospitality committee. (to page 3