

# THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

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PASSED

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## THE OCTOBER MEETING

The annual "Detrick" meeting of the Section will be held this year in October. Maryland chemists will journey to Frederick on Friday, October 22, for dinner at the Officers' Club at Camp Detrick and a meeting on the post at which Dr. P. A. Wells of the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture will be the speaker.

Admission to the post will be permitted only to those who have indicated in advance that they will attend the meeting. The list of names of those attending will be checked at the entry gate to Camp Detrick, and no one will be permitted to enter or to depart whose name is not on this list. To allow time for preparation of this list, those persons planning to attend either the meeting or the dinner and meeting should, by Monday evening, October 18, notify Dr. Belle Otto, Goucher College, Towson 4; Valley 5-3305. Members living in the Frederick area may notify Dr. J. E. Schantz, Biological Laboratories, Camp Detrick; Monument 3-4111, Extension 4262, by the same date. A card is enclosed for convenience in making these reservations. The subscription price for cocktails and dinner (\$2.50) must accompany your request for a reservation. There is no charge for the meeting.

Dr. P. A. Wells, our speaker for this meeting, is a native of Wisconsin. He received his early training in chemistry at the University of Minnesota where he obtained the Bachelor of Science degree. He also holds a Master of Science degree from George Washington University and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Georgetown University. In 1953 the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Dr. Wells entered the federal service in 1928, being appointed at that time to a position as insecticide chemist (to page 33)

## Section Officers

Chairman	William H. Summerson, Chemical Corps, ARMY Chemical Center, Maryland
Vice-chairman	Belle Otto, Goucher College, Baltimore 4
Secretary	J. E. Ahlberg, 3709 Kimble Road, Baltimore 18
Treasurer	E. A. Metcalf, 907 Litchfield Road, Baltimore 12

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## NOMINATIONS, THEN ELECTIONS

When election of Section officers is made in November, nominations for those offices must be considered in October. The chairman of the Nominating Committee for this year is Dr. W. H. Hartford. Dr. Hartford and his committee will submit, for action at the November meeting, a slate of nominees for offices of the Section which will include one councillor and an alternate for a three-year term, possibly one councillor and an alternate for a one-year term, and five members of the Executive Committee. Anyone who has suggestions for these jobs may communicate with Dr. Hartford, whose committee will give careful consideration to all suggestions. Dr. Hartford may be reached at Mutual Chemical Company of America, 1348 Block Street, Baltimore 31, phone OR-leans 5-0555.

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## TRAFFIC CHANGES

What is the effect of the recent reversal of direction for traffic flow on Charles Street upon access to the Homewood campus of the Johns Hopkins University? To put the same question in more specific form, how does the Maryland chemist get on the campus for ACS meetings, and where does he park?

Approach

from the south - enter by Art Museum Drive or Howard Street.  
from the north - enter from University Parkway by the road beside the Athletic Field.

from the bowl at 34th Street - bear in mind that Charles Street traffic moves uptown in the east lane and two main lanes, and downtown in the west lane and one main lane, and that the bowl driveway on the campus is now one-way, with the entrance from Charles Street at the south (downtown) side of the bowl. With all this in mind, the motorist can work his way into and out of his own complications!

Parking

on campus - south parking lot, opposite Marine Hospital. Ample space here. Elsewhere on campus space is very limited.  
street parking - Charles Street - permitted at the west side of the bowl and in limited areas on the east side of the street.  
St. Paul Street and University Parkway - probably the most likely spots at 8:15 P.M. Note that the walking distance to Remsen Hall from these streets and the south parking lot is about the same.

Johns Hopkins Club, for dinner - space behind the Club, restricted to those who are dinner guests at the Club.

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with the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils at Wenatchee, Washington. In 1929 he was transferred to Washington D.C., where he was associated with the Industrial Farm Products Research Division of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. Dr. Wells was in charge of the survey of research in the eastern part of the United States which was conducted by the Department of Agriculture as a preliminary step in establishing the Regional Research Laboratories. He was appointed Director of the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory in 1939, and in 1951 he became Director of the Eastern Region of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. In 1954 he became Chief of the Eastern Utilization Research Branch, his present position. Dr. Wells is best known for his work on development of industrial methods of producing certain products by mold and bacterial fermentation. He was instrumental in developing methods for the preparation of gluconic acid, kojic acid, citric acid, l-sorbose and other substances. His scientific achievements have been recognized by the American Institute of Chemists in the award of their Honor Scroll in 1952.

Dr. Wells has chosen as his subject "Biologically Active Substances from the Plant Kingdom". From time immemorial man has subsisted, directly or indirectly, on plants. But in addition to food, the plant kingdom has also, from time immemorial, supplied substances - drugs and poisons - which deeply affect man as an organism. In recent years plants have been the source of supply of many more biologically active chemicals. One, developed by the Eastern Utilization Research Branch of the Department of Agriculture, is the drug rutin; others which come immediately to mind include penicillin, vitamin B12 and dextran, all from microscopic plants. These recent developments, important as they are, may be merely the forerunners of a vast array of useful compounds from plants. Diosgenin, from Mexican yam, is now made into cortisone. Perhaps other plants will yield better cortisone precursors. We know that some plant varieties are immune to a disease while other varieties succumb. Is a chemical factor responsible? We have a lead on this. Perhaps more information will help us grow plant varieties free from the threat of destruction by fungi, rusts and other harmful organisms. Whether or not this comes to pass, it seems highly likely that a vigorous and diligent study of plants as a source of chemicals will lead to results useful in the service of man.

Camp Detrick at Frederick, Maryland is about 45 miles west of Baltimore and can be reached by travelling on either Route 40 or Route 26 from Baltimore. If Route 40 is used, drive to the center of Frederick at Market and Patrick Streets, turn right onto Market Street and drive north to the fountain and stop light at Seventh Street. Turn left onto Seventh Street and drive about one mile to the main gate of Camp Detrick designated by a large sign on the left. If Route 26 is used, follow it to the second stop light in Frederick, turn right onto Seventh Street and proceed to Camp Detrick. At the gate each arrival will be checked against the list and given directions to the Officers' Club. Anyone needing transportation from Baltimore should notify Dr. Otto when making reservations. She will try to make any necessary arrangements.

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