The Crucible

Published by the
PITTSBURGH SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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PITTSBURGH SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

186th MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 1923, 8:15 p.m.

BUREAU OF MINES AUDITORIUM
4800 Forbes Street

ITALY'S PART IN CHEMICAL SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT

By PROF. GIUSEPPE BRUNI, F. C. S.

Director of Research Department, Pirelli & C.,
Milan, Italy

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. One Dollar
Bureau of Mines Dining-Room
Return the card sent herewith

The Crucible

The Paper with the Triple Linkage—Good-fellowship, Co-operation, Loyalty

PUBLISHED BY THE PITTSBURGH SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
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EDITOR - E. H. McCLELLAND
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MANAGING EDITOR-H. H. CRAVER
PITTSBURGH TESTING LABORATORY
616 GRANT STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA.

HUNCHES FOR LUNCHES

The Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania luncheons in the cafeteria of the William Penn Hotel were started in January, 1922, and the attendance has increased steadily until to-day we have an average of 75 a day, with a maximum of 120 on February 15. This is the fourth attempt the Society has made to have a regular noonday luncheon, and the first to prove successful. I believe the most important factor in our success this time, lies in the "cafeteria plan." In other words you may get as little or as much as you want for lunch.

In order to have a successful and active organization one of the first and most important things to be accomplished is to get your members acquainted with each other. This will increase the attendance at meetings and insure a more active interest in the activities of the organization. Everyone looks forward with pleasure to attending a meeting when he knows he will be among friends, but if he knows he will see only strangers, he will probably hesitate about going, no matter how interesting the paper of the evening may promise to be. There is nothing so indicative of the usefulness of an organization as the number of members who make use of its facilities. I feel therefore that our noonday luncheons have done a great deal to stimulate interest in the Society.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend on behalf of the Society a cordial invitation to members of the American Chemical Society to take lunch at the "Enginers' table" in the cafeteria of the William Penn Hotel. You will find good food, moderate prices, and a hearty welcome from the members of the Engineers' Society.

K. F. Treschow, Secretary, Engineers' Society of Western Penna.

The idea of having a chemists' club in Pittsburgh has been mentioned several times, but no practicable method has been suggested by which such a movement might be started. I think that the experience of the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania with their plan of having a regular luncheon place and luncheon habit is one that we should follow in so far as we can. I suggest that we have it understood that such of the members of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society as can conveniently do so will come for lunch between the hours of 12 and 1 p. m. to the William Penn cafeteria, and will meet in the same end of the cafeteria where the Engineers' Society now have tables. In fact, it seems that it will have an additional advantage for us to meet at the Engineers' Society tables at first, until our own number is large enough to justify separate tables. It will be very pleasant and profitable to meet members of the Engineers' Society, who are, in many cases, engaged in lines of work with which we will have to become familiar if our laboratory ideas are to be transformed into commercial-scale operations.

By meeting with the members of the Engineers' Society, we will become acquainted with electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, civil engineers, and engineers in other lines. They will be interested in what we are interested in, and we shall be much interested in the things they are doing.

Let's accept the invitation of the Secretary of the Engineers' Society to begin this pleasant custom of meeting together informally at once. I feel sure that it would work out to every one's satisfaction.

James Otis Handy.

LETTER FROM OUR SUBURBAN CORRESPONDENT
SMOKER REACTIONS

Youngwood, Pa., March 20, 1923.

Dear McClelland:

I noticed in the March issue of the CRUCIBLE in the article which reviewed the February Smoker, that when they passed the wooden tray of cigarettes, I thought it was a collection and got up and changed seats. This only goes to show that my early training enables me to recognize a collection tray when I see it; and, as far as shifting my seat is concerned, how would you expect a fellow who has been away from the city for a year to see all those pretty girls and sit quiet?

Now, since I have explained my actions and cleared myself, I am going to relate a few of my observations at this Smoker.

After listening to Harry Slocum coax for an hour to get to go to the Smoker, saying he would be good 'n everything, his Lizousine hadn't any more than started to snort and pull away from home when he said, "Lookee, boy, lookee" and pulled out an old much-worn spectacle case from his pocket. "My bowling glasses," he said, "Brings the pins closer."

If Norman Reis was disappointed at the size of the crowd, it's his own fault. He shouldn't announce in the CRUCIBLE so much Girly Girly stuff. He ought to state simply—Boys, this is the night of our annual smoker. Everybody come and enjoy the mid-winter festivity. Prof. Sanctimonious Sims will address the gathering on his favorite theme, "Most of us went to day school; that's why we can't behave at night." Then the wife would think we were in for a lecture and wouldn't get suspicious when she read the CRUCIBLE. Reis is married hisself and ought to know better.

Take that fellow Rodman, for instance. You didn't see him in the back row, did you? Nor the middle row either? No sir, he walked right in kind of late, looked around and sat right down in the front row like as if he was disappointed to find no room anywhere else.

If Andrews paid only $1 admission at the door, he still owes the Committee $8.85. The 85 cents is for what he was thinking and the $8 for the extra eats he packed away.

Honestly, I believe Docs Silverman and Stahl would talk chemistry at an Irish wake. There they sat all evening discussing the whys and wherefores of the atoms, and a fellow says to me, "If that pair was crossing the ocean and the boat would start to sink, they would discuss whether or not it was soluble in salt water."

Now take Rudyard Porter. That boy just hates to be lonesome. He might go to a place by himself, but along about 11 o'clock he gets kind of tired of himself and discovers he ain't fit company to take himself home. Does she sing or does she dance? Doesn't make any difference to him.

I could go on and tell you a lot of other things about some of the other fellows, but I hate to knock because they might think up some reverse English on me.

Anyhow, they certainly were a slick little crowd of girls. I liked specially that "Back to Nature" dance—but I noticed a lot of fellows got sore when Reis announced that she traveled along with her mamma.

The elderly one that told us the Aesop Fables kind of mustered up a little courage but nobody hated her for that. Her morals were good and ought to help to teach people the importance of "Swat the fly." I sure laffed when she told about Reis buying up all that wearing apparel. Guess he thought he wouldn't get found out.

Next thing on the program is the Picnic. Reis has made a good start and I'm wondering what he has up his sleeve for this next affair. Hope it ain't all foot races and horseshoes. What we hard working fellers need is a little novelty which will exercise our desires, imaginations and aspirations. Too much chemistry, etc., ain't good.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Thomas.

P. S.—See you at the Picnic.

DR. E. C. FRANKLIN ON "THE AMMONIA SYSTEM OF COMPOUNDS"

By Charles S. Palmer

Those of us who had the rare pleasure of hearing our President give us a sample of his sound chemistry, and of hearing him expound his most ingenious hypothesis, with scores of successful and surprising tests and experiments, were impressed with several aspects of the speaker and his subject.

In the very first place, Dr. Franklin has a most engaging personality.

In the next place, he is a wonderfully expert blower of glass, and a magnificent demonstrator.

Thirdly, Dr. Franklin has brought to the history of our science, the most notable addition to the general theory of "types" which has appeared for some three score years.

To show that, in theory and in experiment, ammonia simulates water in its relation to acids, bases, salts, "hydrides" and "anhydrides" and, not only in the field of the commoner inorganic compounds, but also in that richer and more varied organic field, that is in itself a notable achievement; but to do all this with liquid ammonia as the solvent, and to trace out the full and complete analogy is simply marvelous. Of course much of this knowledge must be in the files of our journals; but it seems that many of us never before grasped the full reality of the subject, and it came to us as almost a revelation.

Back towards the middle of the last century, the theory of types was almost the only general guide to the easy comparison of compounds; there was no theory of dissociation and ionization to illuminate the field of relationship, and it is peculiarly striking that this new work of Dr. Franklin not only takes in the newer theories that have come with the last sixty years, but adapts itself to them with most surprising accuracy and fullness.

Dr. Franklin's address will always stand out in the memories of many of us as one of the events of a lifetime—something unique and brilliant of its own kind, like a showing of the rare "argonoids," or a demonstration of the marvelous chemistry of radium. Rarely does one have an opportunity to hear and see so much that is new and inspiring as the rich material which Dr. Franklin gave us on that memorable evening.

It is possible that the young student of chemistry, in the maze of new material which in modern times is being constantly furnished to us, does not have time to fortify himself thoroughly in the good old fundamentals, such as the old "type theory" of the relationships of chemical compounds; and it is most fortunate for both the older and the younger student and the enthusiast in our science, that we have this opportunity to see the richness and value of this new solvent which is itself as old as the classic experiments of Faraday. Truly we live in most marvelous times and not the least of the many showings of the progress of the age is this most valuable work of Dr. Edward C. Franklin.

The Bureau of Mines served a very good dinner to 66 "customers." There were enough Kansans to make Dr. Franklin feel at home and he told us confidentially that he is really responsible for the creation of Mellon Institute, since his leaving the University of Kansas paved the way for the appointment of Robert Kennedy Duncan. Weidlein presided in "costume," and Fisher pulled some of the best repartee of the season.

RULES OF THE ROAD IN JAPAN

At the rise of the hand of policeman, stop rapidly. Do not pass him by or otherwise disrespect him.

When a passenger of the foot heve in sight, tootle the horn trumpet to him melodiously at first. If he still obstacles your passage, tootle him with vigor and express by word of the mouth the warning, "hi, hi."

Beware of the wandering horse that he shall not take fright as you pass him. Do not explode the exhaust box at him. Go soothingly by, or stop by the roadside till he pass away.

Give big space to the restive dog that make sport in the roadway. Avoid entanglement of dog with your wheel-spokes.

Go soothingly on the grease-mud, as there lurk the skid demon. Press the brake of the foot as you roll around the corners to save the collapse and tie-up.—*The Service Mark.*

IN BAD TASTE

May: Oh, Ray, dear is my hair in your way?

Ray: You said a mouthful, Maytime. —*Topics of the Day Films.*

Warden: Who are you and what are you charged with?

Prisoner: My name's Spark. I'm an electrician and I'm charged with battery.

Warden: Jailer, put this man in a dry cell.—*Bell Telephone News.*

The CRUCIBLE boasts neither art editor nor staff photographer, and is able to offer little in the way of illustrations, but we are very glad to be able to present in this issue the picture of Professor Bruni. This is made possible through the generosity of one of Pittsburgh's leading photo-engravers — the Robert Rawsthorne Company in the Heeren Building. This company made and donated the half-tone cut used on page 61, and for this favor we hereby convey the thanks of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society.

In a very recent book by James J. Walsh on "What Civilization Owes to Italy" the author says: "Italy for the past thousand years has been the mother and mistress of the arts, the fountain head of literature, the foster-mother of education, the beneficent patron of the arts and crafts, and, though this is less well recognized, the faithful nurse of the sciences."

With these rich traditions, the message which Dr. Bruni brings us should be interesting and stimulating.

We hazard the guess that, during the first week in April, the chemical problem that will be most earnestly considered throughout the country will be whether to pack the dress-suit for the New Haven meeting.

The mere matter of where the chemist picks up his vitamins may seem to be of little moment but, indirectly, it is not without importance.

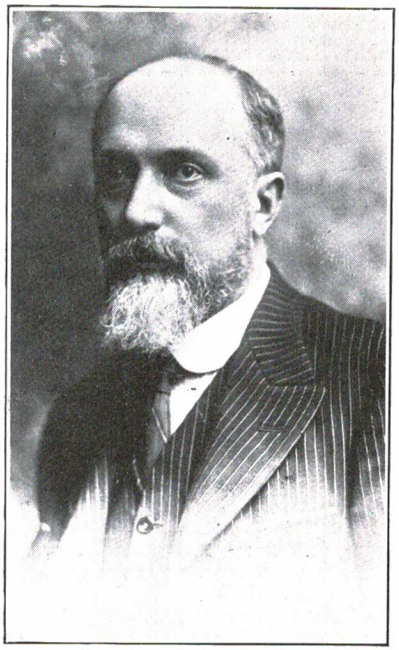
The luncheon project of the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania has been a definite factor in increasing the membership of that organization, and we are glad to be able to publish a message from one of our new members who is Secretary of that Society; also a communication from one of the most active and influential of our older members, sponsoring the idea of a chemists' luncheon down town.

There should be several luncheon places to accommodate the chemists in various parts of this district, even where the number is comparatively small. Fraternities with limited local membership find it feasible to maintain daily or weekly luncheons, and certain small groups with no definite organization frequently get together at such luncheons as those of the "Hungry Club."

Since the chemist's work is in industrial plants rather than in office buildings, it is obvious that he is not very favorably situated for noon meetings down town; but every chemist gets to the business section or to the Oakland district occasionally, and on these occasions it would undoubtedly be pleasanter for him to eat at a table reserved for members of his own profession than to fight his way through the crowd at the "Greasy Spoon" lunch counter.

The dinners in connection with our monthly meetings are excellent for their purpose, but too infrequent to keep the local men in close touch with each other. As a promoter of interest and friendship there is nothing better than to let a lot of men with similar interests get their legs under the same table, eat the same food, and converse under the gentle stimulus of caffeine and nicotine.

PROF. GIUSEPPE BRUNI, F.C.S.



Dr. Giuseppe Bruni, one of the foremost chemists of Italy, is Director of the Research Department of Pirelli & C., Milan, Italy. We have also known him by reputation through his excellent work as professor of general chemistry at the Regio Istituto Tecnico Superiore, in Milan. This institution, which was founded in 1859, is a school of technology which has close to two thousand students and is looked upon as the leading technical institute in Italy. Associated with Dr. Bruni in the Department of Chemistry are the physical chemist, G. Carrara, and the industrial chemist, E. Molinari, who is well known because of his treatise on pure and applied chemistry. The laboratories of chemical technology, electrochemistry, and paper technology are especially well equipped.

Dr. Bruni's investigations in physical chemistry have brought him eminence. Among the researches which he has carried out are the following—physiological effects of optical isomers on higher organisms; salt formation and basicity of acids; freezing of hydrosols; basicity of acids and constitution of abnormal acid salts; freezing of mixtures of isomeric benzene derivatives; distinguishing tautomeric and polymeric from polymorphic substances; molecular weight of water dissolved in various solvents; solid solutions of iodine in some cyclic hydrocarbons; heat formation of solid solutions; electrolytic formation of alloys; hydrogen persulphides; double decomposition reactions between alcohol and ethereal salts; formation of solid metallic solutions by diffusion in the solid state; equilibrium diagram of silver-cadmium alloys; ternary alloys of magnesium, zinc, and cadmium; and electrolysis of crystalline compounds.

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING

186th Meeting, March 26, 1923

The Pittsburgh Section of the A. C. S. met in regular session in the Bureau of Mines auditorium with Chairman Weidlein in the chair.

Attention was called to the report of the Program Committee, and to the Abstract of Report of Committee on Consideration of Letter of California Section on Management of American Chemical Society, both published in the March CRUCIBLE.

Dr. W. F. Faragher, after calling attention to the fact that a questioning attitude on the part of the Sections towards the national policies of the Society should be encouraged instead of too definitely discouraged, moved that the report of the Committee be accepted. Motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. J. O. Handy, Chairman of the Permanent-Fund Committee, reported that the fund is still in the hands of the Treasurer, and that on April 1 it is to be invested to the best possible advantage; and that it is the interest from this fund that is to be used to secure speakers for the Section meetings.

Chairman Weidlein called attention to the necessity for considering a financial policy for the Section in order to meet the cost of publishing the CRUCIBLE and the expenses of other activities of the Section.

The invitation of the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers to their meeting on April 12 was read and the Secretary's reply noted.

The Philadelphia Section called attention to a bill before the Pennsylvania Legislature regarding the legal status of individuals empowered to conduct or report laboratory procedures for the diagnosis or treatment of human disease.

The address of the evening on "The Ammonia System of Compounds; Experimentally Illustrated," was given by Dr. Edward C. Franklin, President of the Society, and Professor of Organic Chemistry at Stanford University. After an interesting discussion of the subject the meeting adjourned at 10 p. m.

E. S. Stateler, Secretary.

SOME GENERAL READING FOR THE CHEMIST

By Miss Grace E. Windsor, Special Assistant, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Every one should "get away from his job" in some fashion, or one day he awakes to the realization that he knows one subject very well but that his neighbor speaks another language and there has to be an interpreter.

There are various ways of "keeping track of the other fellow" but one of the easiest is by means of books. A book can be picked up and laid down many times. The few moments while waiting for an appointment can be utilized by the busy professional man and the evening when he is too tired to enjoy a social experience is just the time to appreciate an interesting book.

Some recent biographies that stand out are Burton J. Hendrick's "Life and Letters of Franklin K. Lane" which is not only delightful reading because of its literary and personal charm but because of the authority with which it reports the inner workings of American diplomacy; Henry Morgenthau's "All in a Life Time," gives the life story of an immigrant Hebrew who rose to great financial and political eminence; and "The Life and Letters of Walter H. Page," American Ambassador to Great Britain in the war years, who brought pressure to bear on the President to enlist America with the allies.

Travel is represented in Colonel C. R. Howard-Bury's "Mt. Everest, the Reconnaissance, 1921"—a richly illustrated account of the partial ascent of the highest peak in the world, the summit of which baffles the mountaineer; in William Beebe's "Jungle Peace," which combines the accurate observations of a real scientist with the human interest and the rare art of the story teller; and in "Beasts, Men, and Gods" by Ossendowski, which is the adventurous Odyssey of a distinguished Polish professor escaping the Russian Bolsheviks through the heart of Asia.

Some very different types of books of distinction are J. Arthur Thomson's "Outline of Science," a comprehensive, clear, candid, compact and exact story of evolution and scientific discovery; Samuel Scoville's "Wild Folk," a collection of absorbing tales of the comedies and the tragedies, the romance and the fight-for-life of the folk of forest, stream, and sky; and Stephen Leacock's "My Discovery of England," of which the London Outlook says "We have never received a lighter or more genial critic. His humor is best at its slyest, and sometimes it is very sly indeed;" J. H. Robinson's "The Mind in the Making," which is considered one of the most significant of the recent books, and one with which every thinker should be acquainted; Arthur Pound's "Iron Man In Industry" which gives daring speculations concerning the automatic machine that is the blind architect of our future industry, politics, and social life and is an honest book of extraordinary interest and suggestiveness; and Irving Brown's "Nights and Days on the Gypsy Trail" which takes one far and wide on the open road, and introduces the reader into the joys and adventures of the life of the many gipsies the author knows.

Last but not least are two novels worth classing with these books of note:

Louis Hemon's "Maria Chapdelaine," the story of a Canadian family, is epic in its simplicity and beauty. Critics have likened it to moonlight on water, to the deep glades of the forest, and to music. They all wax poetical when describing it. There is quality in it which will make it one of our classics.

"The Black Diamond" by Frances Brett Young, the story of a young English coal miner, has a strength and vivid piquancy all its own. John Masefield says that Frances Brett Young "has the most beautiful mind among the young men now writing English . . . and an abundant sense of life."

All these books may be borrowed from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

LEST WE FORGET

The success and even the existence of the CRUCIBLE are dependent to a large extent upon our advertisers. The firms using our advertising pages have been loyal supporters of the Pittsburgh Section in the past and the management gladly acknowledges this fact.

We believe too that the majority of the members show their appreciation in a substantial manner when placing their orders for supplies. To those who have not given the subject any thought we make this appeal to buy where the buying is good; in other words, from the CRUCIBLE'S friends and advertisers.

H. H. Craver, Managing Editor.

METHANOL

The National Wood Chemical Association acknowledges the assistance of Dr. W. A. Hamor in the preparation of a recent pamphlet advocating the general use of the term "methanol" instead of wood alcohol.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY PITTSBURGHERS

Magazine Articles

Alexander, Thomas Rush, Jr.
Uranium and its Uses. (In Carnegie Technical Journal, v. 3, March 1923, p. 14-15, 22, 24.)

Anderson, Robert J.
Contraction and Shrinking during Casting. (In Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, v. 28, Feb. 7, 1923, p. 254.)
Deals with these phenomena in nonferrous metals.

Carter, Albert S.
Chemical Deposition of Silver on Mirrors. (In Carnegie Technical Journal, v. 3, Jan. 1923, p. 10-11, 21, 24.)
The same. (In Glass Worker, v. 42, Feb. 3, 1923, p. 13, 35, 37-38, 40.)

Cook, E. C.
Improvements in Open Hearth Furnaces. (In Blast Furnace and Steel Plant, v. 11, Jan. 1923, p. 61-64.)

Denk, F. J.
Fuel Gas Question in the Steel Industry. (In Iron Age, v. 111, Feb. 8, 1923, p. 401-405, 451.)
The same. (In Gas Age-Record, v. 51, March 17, 1923, p. 327-332.)

Ferguson, Robert F.
Recent Developments in Refractories. (In Forging and Heat Treating, v. 9, Jan. 1923, p. 79-80.)

Fieldner, A. C. and others.
Compare Coal Analyses of 25 Laboratories. (In Coal Age, v. 23, March 15, 1923, p. 451-453.)

Goodale, S. L.
Items from the Literature of Forging and Heat Treating. (In Forging and Heat Treating, v. 9, Jan. 1923, p. 14-16.)

Goodale, S. L. & Dodd, Kenneth D.
Developments in Metallurgy of Iron and Steel. (In Blast Furnace and Steel Plant, v. 11, Jan. 1923, p. 4-6.)

Houghten, F. C. & Yagloglou, C. P.
Determining Equal Comfort Lines. (In Journal of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, v. 29, March 1923, p. 165-176.)

Howe, Raymond M. & Ferguson, R. F.
Composition and properties of Diaspore, Bauxite and Gibbsite. (In Journal of the American Ceramic Society, v. 6, March 1923, p. 496-500.)

Howell, Spencer P. & Crawshaw, J. E.
Cartridge Diameter and Strength of High Explosives. (In Engineering and Contracting, v. 59, Feb. 21, 1923, p. 425-429.)

Ihsen, H. C.
Heat Treatment of Steel Castings. (In Blast Furnace and Steel Plant, v. 11, Jan. 1923, p. 95-99.)

Ingels, Margaret.
New Data on Air Dust Determinations. (In Journal of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, v. 29, March 1923, p. 177-193.)

James, J. H. & Ziesenheim, F. C.
Some Engine Experiments with Oxidized Oils. (In Carnegie Technical Journal, v. 3, Jan. 1923, p. 4-5, 20.)
The same. (In Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, v. 28, March 21, 1923, p. 543-545.)

Katz, S. H.
Talk on Methods of Determining Atmospheric Dust. (In Journal of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, v. 29, March 1923, p. 193-194.)

McConnell, W. J. & Houghten, F. C.
Some Physiological Reactions to High Temperatures and Humidities. (In Journal of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, v. 29, March 1923, p. 131-163.)

Mohr, J. A.
Blast Furnace Operations during the Year. (In Blast Furnace and Steel Plant, v. 11, Jan. 1923, p. 32-34.)

Nathanson, J. B.
Isotopes and the Structure of the Atom. (In Carnegie Technical Journal, v. 3, Jan. 1923, p. 6-8, 22, 24.)

Nesbit, A. F.
Removal of Solid and Liquid Particles from Gases. (In Blast Furnace and Steel Plant, v. 10, Dec. 1922, p. 637-641.)

Powell, Alfred R.
Restricting Sulphur in Pig Iron. (In Iron Trade Review, v. 72, March 22, 1923, p. 874-878.)

Ramsburg, C. J.
By-Product Coking during the Past Year. (In Blast Furnace and Steel Plant, v. 11, Jan. 1923, p. 18-19.)

Rodman, C. J.
Durable Insulating Oils. (In Electric Journal, v. 20, Feb. 1923, p. 51-53.)

Saklatwalla, B. D. & Anderson, A. N.
Electric Furnace Makes Ferro-Vanadium. (In Electrical World, v. 81, Feb. 24, 1923, p. 452-456.)

Schurecht, H. G.
An Automatic Direct Reading Laboratory Scale for Weighing Briquettes. (In Journal of the American Ceramic Society, v. 6, March 1923, p. 491-495.)

Selvig, W. A. & Parker, W. L.
Determination of the Specific Gravity of Coke. (In Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, v. 28, March 21, 1923, p. 547-550.)

Sherman, Ralph A. & Blizard, John.
Measuring Coke Combustibility. (In Iron Trade Review, v. 72, March 8, 1923, p. 737-741.)

Tiemann, Hugh P.
(Metallurgical education.) (In Transactions of the American Society for Steel Treating, v. 3, Feb. 1923, p. 566-567.)

Von Bernewitz, M. W.
Wanted: A Metallurgical Handbook. (In Engineering and Mining Journal-Press, v. 115, Feb. 3, 1923, p. 218-219.)
Letter to the editor suggesting the need of a handbook for metallurgists and also one for chemists comparable to the well-known engineering handbooks.

Wakefield, Alice L.
Engineering Features of the Modern Power Laundry. (In Carnegie Technical Journal, v. 3, March 1923, p. 10-11, 18.)

Weber, H. C. P.
Lámpara Eléctrica Catalítica de Seguridad. (In Ingeniería Internacional, v. 9, March 1923, p. 154.)

Young, J. H.
How "Asbestos-Protected Metal" was Developed Commercially. (In Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, v. 28, Feb. 7, 1923, p. 244-247.)

A list of the publications on ceramic investigations by members of the staff of the Bureau of Mines is given in the mimeographed Reports of Investigations of the Bureau, No. 2437, Jan. 1923.

In the February and March issues of "Mining and Metallurgy" there are abstracts of several papers read by Pittsburghers at the recent New York meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

MELLON INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

The following Industrial Fellowships have been established in the Institute since January 1, 1923: Medicinals, Varieties, Fertilizer, Insulation, Coke, Sheet Metal.

Henry Joseph (Ch.E., Columbia School of Mines) began work on the Chrysotile Fellowship on January 2.

F. W. Sperr, Jr., Advisory Fellow in Coke Technology, is now on an extended European trip.

E. S. Ross (M.S., New Hampshire College) has been selected as the incumbent of the new Industrial Fellowship on Roofing.

The concluding article in a series by H. W. Greider, on "Progress in Rubber Research in 1922," appears in the "India Rubber Review" for January, 1923.

The following members of the Institute presented papers at the Silver Jubilee Convention of the American Ceramic Society, held in Pittsburgh, January 12-16: H. G. Schurecht, R. M. Howe, W. R. Kerr.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

Boundy, Ray H., 513 State St., Grove City, Pa.
Bowman, Kiel B., 306 S. Winebiddle Ave., Pittsburgh.
Calhoon, Harold, 3316 Eighth Ave., Beaver Falls, Pa.
Colborn, Lon H., Claysville, Pa.
Hole, Louis G., 1458 Dormont Ave., South Hills Station, Pittsburgh.
Vath, Charles H., 220 Genter Street, Grove City, Pa.

New Members by Transfer

Read, Cecil A., 312 W. Penn St., Butler, Pa. (From Utica, N. Y.)

"Sam," said his employer sympathetically, I hear you had some hard luck."
"What, me, suh? No suh, Ah ain' had no hahd luck."
"Why, I heard your brother was killed and your wife badly injured in an accident."
"Oh, yassuh, yassuh—but dat's deir hahd luck, not mine."—*The Service Mark.*

Help wanted, male—all around carpenter, willing to sleep on the job.—*Detroit News.*

MEETINGS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers.

(Hotel Chatham. Dinner 6:30 p. m.; meeting 8 p. m.)

April 28—Some Factors Entering into the Selection of Mine-Hoist Motors, by F. W. Cramer and A. A. MacDonald.

May 14—Inspection trip to plants of crane manufacturers at Alliance, Ohio.

Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania.

(Meetings in William Penn Hotel, 8 p. m.)

April 17—The Principles of Warfare, Business, and Engineering, by Ralph Rainsford.

April 24—Developments in the Abatement of Corrosion by Water, by F. N. Speller.

THE "ORGANIC" CHEMIST

Excuse me laughing, but I can't help it. If Charles Dickens were alive he would make nearly as much fun of chemists as of lawyers, touching their quibbles and verbose pleadings. I am not a chemist—at least, I have given up thinking that I am. Fifty years ago I got the idea into my head that I was a chemist, but in recent years phase rules, ions, electrons, emanations, isotopes, higher mathematics and such like terrors have knocked the conceit out of me and forced me to escape the muddling throng and take refuge in the strangers' gallery to watch the show in comfort. It is at times entertaining. Nearly a hundred years ago Woehler knocked to bits the barrier that separated "organic" chemistry from ordinary chemistry. Ever since, chemists have been trying to readjust the barrier, sometimes a bit nearer and sometimes a bit further with more or less "no man's land," but only to find that it is a phantom anyone can walk through if he wants. But if the term "organic chemistry" is silly, the height of absurdity is reached in the word "organic chemist." Names such as Metallic Chemist, Watery, Beery, Gassy, Oily, Soapy Chemist or Irony, Steely and Brazen Chemist would be just as sensible. (From "Chemistry and Industry", Feb. 2, 1923.)

LOCAL INDUSTRIAL NOTES

By E. J. Casselman

The Grasselli Powder Co. has tentative plans under consideration for the rebuilding of its press mill at Newcastle recently destroyed by fire. The estimated loss has not been announced. Headquarters of the company are in the Guardian Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.

The Pennsylvania Paper Stock Co., 516 First Ave., has tentative plans under consideration for the rebuilding of the portion of its plant, destroyed by fire, February 18, with loss estimated at close to $75,000.

The National Fire Proofing Co., is operating its East Palestine, O., plant at full capacity, and is said to have orders on hand to insure continuance on this basis for an indefinite period. The branch plants at Keasbey and Natco, N. J., are also running full, and at an early date it is expected to make extensions in these two plants for greater output.

The Emporium blast-furnace, Emporium, Pa., is said to be planning to blow in the stack at an early date. The plant has been idle for some time past.

The Carnegie Steel Co., is making ready to resume operations at its coke plant at the Farrell, Pa., works, which has been idle since March, 1921. Production will also be inaugurated at the benzol and other by-product plant units. Employment will be given to about 600 men.

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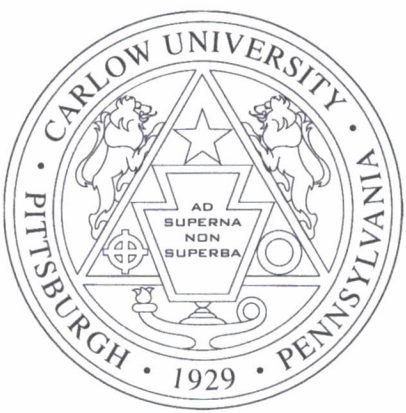

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Dr. David Gallaher, Department Chairperson (project lead)
Dr. Monique Hockman, Professor of Chemistry
Dr. William Kowallis, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Mr. Michael Martucci, M.S., Assistant Professor of Chemistry

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