THE 180TH MEETING
PITTSBURGH SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
Thursday, May 18, 1922, at 8:15 P. M.
—AT—
BUREAU OF MINES AUDITORIUM, 4800 Forbes Street

DR. H. C. P. WEBER
Westinghouse Research Laboratory
WILL SPEAK ON
THE CHEMISTRY OF
ELECTRICAL INSULATION MATERIALS

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Abstract of Dr. A. Lowy's Paper on the
"Electro-Chemistry of Organic Compounds"

The study of these variables although complex to a certain extent, are within experimental manipulation and foreshadow great possibilities for the utilization of electricity for the preparation of organic compounds.

Examples of important aliphatic and aromatic compounds already prepared by electrolysis were given: viz., chloroform, iodoform, formaldehyde, hydrocarbons esters alcohols, reduction products of nitro compounds, oxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons, anthraquinone, vanillin, malachite green, salvarsan, piperidine, para-amidophenol etc.

It has been reported that a number of these compounds have been made in Germany on a commercial scale by means of electrolytic methods. During the war several tons of para-amidophenol were made in this country by the electrolytic process.

A number of future research problems were outlined for the utilization of electricity for the preparation of organic compounds; viz., preparation of dye intermediates, dye-stuffs, electro-bleaching, halogenation, nitration with weak nitric acid, and the utilization of both the anode and cathode compartments for simultaneous oxidation and reduction reactions.

The following advantages were pointed out in connection with the utilization of electricity: (1) electric current produces changes in place of expensive oxidizing and reducing agents, such as PbO₂, Cr₂O₃, SnCl₂, etc.; (2) only energy is used; (3) no by-products of inorganic chemicals to remove; (4) easier to manipulate, provided conditions have been worked out; (5) in order to obtain full current efficiency, both the anodic and cathodic compartments may be used simultaneously.
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ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK FOR ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CONVENTION

April 28, 1922.

The response to the individual letter and card mailed to the members of the Pittsburgh Section asking for funds to entertain our guests at the fall meeting of the American Chemical Society, has been very encouraging. Up to the present, 162 members have pledged $2,603.00, or an average of $16 per person. If we could count on an average contribution of $10 per person from the remaining 350 members of the Section, it would enable us to give "our party" without calling on the industries for assistance. The New York Section raised 85 per cent of their entertainment fund last year from the members of the section and their expenses were double the amount ours will be—due to the joint meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry and the American Chemical Society. We surely can make as good a record. Therefore if you have not made your pledge, please send it in immediately and bring our total up to at least the $4000 mark, which is set as the minimum sum that should be raised by the Section. The pledge cards should be returned at the earliest possible date, as the Entertainment Committee cannot make definite plans until they know the amount of money available. Furthermore, the Finance Committee does not consider it advisable to approach the industries until we have $4000 pledged by the members. We also wish one hundred per cent support, as every member of the Section should take an active part to make the meeting a success.

Please send in your pledge today—any amount acceptable. Send your pledge to E. R. Weidlein, Chairman Finance Committee, Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., and make all checks payable to C. E. Nesbit, Treasurer. It is not necessary to send your check with the pledge, as payments can be made any time between now and the first of July. Your pledge will come eventually—why not now.

OUR NEW MEMBERS

Verner V. Kendall, National Tube Co., Pittsburgh.
Helene M. Pope, 5125 Woodlawn Avenue, Pittsburgh Pa.
Joseph Schimmel, 2106 Webster Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lily Bell Sefton, Morgantown, W. Va.
Wm. Donald Wolfe, Salem, Ohio.
APRIL MEETING

Chairman Handy called the meeting to order in the Bureau of Mines auditorium April 20, 1922.
The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
The membership of the Publicity Committee for the Convention was announced. It will consist of W. A. Hamor, H. H. Craver, and E. J. Casselman. One member of this committee is to act as Section correspondent for the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.

It was announced that a group of the members of the local section comprising those residing in the Morgantown district had applied for permission to form a separate local section. Before the A. C. S. can allow the formation of this section our own section must give its permission.

A very general discussion was started by this announcement. The result was the passage of a motion made by Dr. Palmer that this Section with expression of regret over the loss of these members, grants a waiver of jurisdiction over the territory in which the new section will lie. It is to be known as the section of Northern West Virginia.

Dr. Bogue moved that an invitation be extended to the new Section to act as hosts in conjunction with us at the Fall Convention. This motion was also carried.

Dr. Alexander Lowy read the paper of the evening on “The Electro-chemistry of Organic Compounds.” An abstract of this paper is printed elsewhere in this issue. The instances of current manufacturing processes using electro-chemical methods (and competing successfully with the strictly chemical processes) came as eye-openers to many of us as did the seemingly limitless possibilities of the field. A vote of thanks was given by the Section to Dr. Lowy.

There were four women chemists present at the meeting. The Secretary points out that there are a good many more than this number on the rolls. They can certainly get as much out of these meetings and papers as the men, and the officers would like to see a larger number at the May meeting. We will see that they are made welcome. If they doubt this let them come and see.

APRIL DINNER

The attendance at our dinners, which are always in strenuous competition with the home-cooked variety, doesn’t seem to change very much. Have we reached an equilibrium point, or is the reaction just slowing up? The fact that one never knows what is coming next should have an especial catalytic appeal to the scientific mind. For instance, we are to have an orchestra and singing at our next dinner, but we don’t know what they are going to sing. The amusement at the last dinner consisted of a negro monologue by Mr. C. S. Carter followed by stories from Mr. E. H. McClelland and eight other members. These were mostly extemporaneous stories, but they had that little touch of something (not saying what) that seemed to amuse the crowd immensely. McClelland ought to have some kind of a Perkin medal for his researches in Bible history. We hope he comes around frequently in as generous a spirit as he did in April.

THE MAY MEETING

If you are a chemist and want to do yourself a lot of good, you will be on deck at the May meeting of the local section of the A. C. S. The program will be varied enough to dispel all kinds of gloom. The most dispeptic scientist in the Pittsburgh district will be able to digest some of the profitable offerings.

We offer for your consumption the best “buck” dinner you have yet eaten. For your entertainment a professional orchestra of six pieces will play forth classical jazz and other renditions by request. To aid your vocalization, a song leader of known repute will be on the job.

The professional group of Alpha Chi Sigma will hold a meeting in the conference room of the Bureau of Mines, after the general meeting.

This will be the last meeting of the A.C.S. before the Big Chemists Picnic in June and Big League A.C.S. Convention to be held here in September.

We are fortunate in securing Dr. H. C. P. Weber to speak to us on the subject of “The Chemistry of Electrical Insulation Materials.” Our last year’s president needs no introduction to us.

How well some of our members know the meaning of “The Last Chance” will be shown by the attendance recorded May 18th. You can’t attend another of our meetings until next October. Come on, bring your scientifically inclined or otherwise friends.

C. J. RODMAN,
Chairman, Program Committee.
SPECIAL CONVENTION MEETING

Chairman Handy called a special meeting in the Bureau of Mines Auditorium at 5:20 P.M., April 20, 1922, to discuss plans for the A.C.S. Convention to be held in Pittsburgh, September 5-9, 1922.

About 54 members were present. The topics discussed included:

(1) The best location for the Councillors’ meeting and dinner on Tuesday, September 5. The Duquesne Club was selected as the place for the dinner.

(2) Daily Luncheon facilities. It was brought out that the lunch room at the Carnegie Institute could handle 1000 to 1500 per day, which solves that point.

(3) A.C.S. Headquarters and Registration. It was not definitely decided that we would select any hotel as “headquarters” but it was pointed out that a substantial majority of the out-of-town members will stay at the William Penn Hotel, and hence that would be the most suitable place for registration. The registration of Councillors will be held Tuesday to mitigate congestion in the regular registration Wednesday morning.

(4) Entertainment. The exceptionally enjoyable entertainments at the Chicago and Rochester meetings were pointed out as examples. It is planned to entertain 250 ladies including the visitors. It was decided to eliminate the banquet as a non-essential function rarely enjoyed. Whether to hold the Smoker or the general entertainment the first evening was thoroughly discussed, and the Smoker was favored. It was brought out that the Youngstown group would be glad to cooperate with us if we wish to offer a special excursion to members passing through Youngstown on the way to the Convention Monday, September 4th.

The remainder of the discussion was devoted to the proper ordering and proportioning of the time between divisional meetings, excursions and entertainment. A new policy of the Society holds that two full days should be devoted to divisional meetings. The Section wants to abide by this, yet does not want to fail in any way on entertainment. The final result of the discussion was the following provisional program:

September 5th, Tuesday—
3:00 P.M.—Council Meeting.
7:00 P.M.—Council Dinner.
8:00 P.M.—Council Meeting — continued if necessary.

September 6th, Wednesday—
9:00 A.M.—Registration.
10:30 A.M.—General Meeting.
2:00 P.M.—Divisional Meeting.
8:00 P.M.—Smoker.

September 7th, Thursday—
Morning—Divisional Meeting.
Afternoon—Divisional Meeting.
Evening—Public Meeting.

September 8th, Friday—
All Day—Excursion.

While the men of the Section have been busy making plans for the various activities of the Convention in September, the women have not been idle. They have organized into a committee to handle the interests of the women at the convention and several sub-committees have been formed.

Here are the committees and their chairmen:

Executive, Mrs. Handy.
Excursions, Mrs. Blough.
Entertainment and Social, Mrs. Weidlein.
Registration, Mrs. Brownlee.
Hotels and Dormitories, Mrs. James.
Transportation, Mrs. Zimmerman.
Financial, Mrs. Nesbit.
Luncheon, Mrs. Vogt.

The Women’s Committee has met twice and has already rendered much assistance in planning the convention entertainment. About twenty were present at a meeting Tuesday, May 2nd, at which they adopted a program for entertaining the ladies in conjunction with the tentative program laid out by the men.

This program is as follows:

September 5th, Tuesday—
7:00 P.M.—Councillor’s dinner.
8:15 P.M.—Theatre.

September 6th, Wednesday—
Morning—Registration.
Afternoon—Trip to Sewickley and historic points.
6:00 P.M.—Buffet supper with men.

September 7th, Thursday—
Morning—Excursion to Heinz Plant.
Noon—Lunch at Heinz Plant.
4:00 P.M.—Musical.
Evening—Reception and dance after public meeting.

September 8th, Friday—
All Day—Excursion.
BUREAU OF MINES NOTES

Mr. A. C. Fieldner attended a meeting of the superintendents of the various stations of the Bureau at Washington the latter part of April. The first portion of this conference was held at the Pittsburgh Station.

Dr. Thiessen delivered a lecture on March 17 before the Philadelphia section of the American Chemical Society on "The Origin and Composition of Coal."

Mr. D. D. Stark has returned to the Bureau to take up his former position in the Petroleum Laboratory.

Mr. W. A. Jacobs of the Petroleum Laboratory has visited several refineries in the East lately.

Mr. C. A. Taylor has delivered a series of lectures at the University of Pittsburgh on the subject of explosives.

Mr. N. F. LeJeune, formerly with the Duquesne Light Co., has been engaged to do work in the Petroleum Laboratory.

Dr. R. E. Hall, formerly with the Koppers Co., has accepted the position of Physical Chemist for the Pittsburgh Station of the Bureau.

Dr. J. L. Sherrick, formerly with the Mellon Institute, is engaged in investigational work at the Bureau.

The birth rate for girls has attained a new record at the Bureau. Drs. Hall, Sherrick and Powell have all been favored with baby girls within the last two months.

Two members of the Bureau attended the Birmingham meeting of the American Chemical Society and presented papers. Mr. Fieldner and Mr. Jones were our two visitors to the South at that time.

NOTES FOR THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING CHEMISTRY

In response to the request made by Dr. H. F. Howe when he visited us in March a member of our Publicity Committee is to handle correspondence with the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. It will be recalled that one of the objects of this correspondence service is to increase the newsiness of the personal notes, both by making them more extensive and by getting them into print much sooner after they become facts. It is requested that until the member to handle this is definitely appointed, any such notes or suggestions for obtaining these notes be sent to the Editor of the Crucible, E. J. Casselman, Westinghouse Research Laboratory, East Pittsburgh, Pa.

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INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

We will naturally want to brag about Pittsburgh when our visitors come. The Industrial Museum will be a demonstration of the basis for this and we want a good and successful showing.

The preliminaries for this exhibition have been started. The nuclei for such an exhibit already exist in the shape of collections of the Bureau of Mines, University of Pittsburgh, Mellon Institute, Carnegie Tech and certain industrial concerns such as the Steel, Standard, Chemical and Aluminum Companies.

Dr. Holland of the Carnegie Museum has volunteered his co-operation and we may be able to make the display at the Museum. It has also been suggested that in the same connection a series of films be shown, more or less continuously.

The exact nature of the selections has not been determined and we are open to suggestions. It will hardly be possible to show a "sample of everything that is made" here. But we should certainly show such things as are characteristic of Pittsburgh (for instance coke by-products, metallurgical products in process) and such things as have had their development here (Radium, Aluminum, etc.).

We want your help. If you have any suggestions let us have them. Also get at your firm and see what they can and will offer along this line. Naturally the manufacturers will appreciate whatever publicity they get from such a collection. Try to get some action at once for us.

The following have consented to assist in bringing the matter into shape: E. Blough, A. C. Fieldner, Prof. J. H. James, C. H. Viol, E. R. Weidlein, R. E. Zimmerman, C. E. Andrews.

H. C. P. WEBER.

MELLON INSTITUTE NOTES

1) The following is a list of new Fellowships recently founded.

Pharmaceuticals.
Mr. A. W. Harvey, PhD, University of Pittsburgh.

Textile.
Mr. Edgar R. Clark, B.A., Yale.

Vitrified Tile.
Mr. H. G. Schuurecht, B.S., Illinois.

Varnish.
Mr. Marc Darrin, M.S., University of Washington.

Soda.
Mr. H. G. Elledge, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, formerly senior incumbent on the Laundry Fellowship.

Mr. O. B. J. Fraser, B.S., Queen's University, has been appointed incumbent of the Nickel Fellowship. He takes the place of Mr. R. J. McKay who has gone to New York where he has accepted a position with his donor. Mr. McKay recently spent two months in Europe during which time he familiarized himself with recent developments in the utilization of fuels.

The March, 1922, issue of The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry contains an article by Mr. H. A. Noyes on the subject of "The Composition Basis for Considering Water Requirements of Plants."

At last we have the real surprise???? Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Clara M. Guppy, Librarian of the Institute, and Mr. Ernest S. Stateler, an incumbent of the Fellowship on Bread Technology.

ALPHA CHI SIGMA MEETING

The Alpha Chi Sigma will hold a short meeting in the Conference Room, Bureau of Mines, after the monthly meeting of the Section. Don't forget to attend.

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Spring, 2017

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