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ACS Educational Activities

SYMPOSIA on techniques and physical analytical methods, when presented by specialists, are often attended by standing-room-only audiences at the ACS National Meetings. This was true at Atlantic City, especially for the Symposium on Optical Methods. The Eastern Analytical Symposium is another type of meeting at which review symposia on specialized topics of current interest are stressed.

Planning future symposia is one of the continuing responsibilities of the Analytical Division officers, through their Papers and Symposia Committee. The speakers at such symposia are often members of the ACS who are not connected with the Analytical Division. This is a loss to the Division in receiving support from all the disciplines. The specialists may have strong ties to other societies which they feel more adequately represent their interests and give them more fruitful contacts with individuals interested in their specialized discipline. The ACS, and particularly the Division, should be more attractive to such specialists. This raises the question of the function of ACS National Meetings. The presentation of original work and the discussion of such papers has long been accepted as the traditional reason for holding the national gatherings.

We have also noted the special effort to give short courses on selected topics by experts on a fee basis at ACS meetings (See Editor's Column). This was instituted at Detroit and repeated on a larger scale at Atlantic City. Three of the five topics, electron spin resonance, infrared spectroscopy, and microwave spectroscopy, were of special interest to analytical chemists.

An educational function through symposia and lectures seems to have developed over the years, which may indicate that educational institutions are not providing, for a variety of reasons, continuing education in advances in sophisticated analytical techniques. Certainly the attendance records prove that a need is being filled and that review symposia should continue and be expanded.

