

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

## Reports of Meetings

### MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

A MEETING of the Society was held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29th, 1964, at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1. The Chair was taken by the President, Dr. D. C. Garratt, Hon. M.P.S., F.R.I.C.

The subject under discussion was "The Assay of Penicillins" and the following papers were presented and discussed: "Analytical Problems of the New Penicillins," by F. R. Batchelor, B.A.; "Penicillin Assays by Chemical Methods," by R. R. Goodall, B.Sc., Ph.D.; "Use and Misuse of Microbiological Determination of Penicillins," by J. T. Smith, B.Pharm., Ph.D.; "The Assay of Penicillins in Body Fluids," by Jillian M. Bond, B.Sc., Ph.D.; "Analysis of the Penicillins as Therapeutic Agents," by G. T. Stewart, M.D., B.Sc.

A fuller report of this meeting will be published in a subsequent issue of the *Proceedings*.

### MIDLANDS SECTION

AN Ordinary Meeting of the Section was held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15th, 1964, at the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire College of Technology, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton. The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Section, Mr. W. H. Stephenson, F.P.S., D.B.A., F.R.I.C.

The following paper was presented and discussed: "Coulometry—Principles and Progress," by E. Bishop, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.T., F.R.I.C. (see summary below).

#### COULOMETRY—PRINCIPLES AND PROGRESS

MR. E. BISHOP outlined the principles of coulometry at constant current and controlled potential. He discussed the relative merits of the two methods and the problems of current integration. After mentioning some of the developments and wider implications, for example, in process control, kinetic and mechanism studies, and preparative chemistry, he gave an account of the applications of differential electrolytic potentiometry to constant current coulometry, particularly on the micro-scale, covering oxidation - reduction, precipitation and acid - base reactions. Among the more startling of these applications was the determination of  $10^{-11}$  mole of halide at a concentration of  $2.5 \times 10^{-8}$  M in sample volumes of 0.5 ml.

### MICROCHEMISTRY GROUP

THE forty-third London Discussion Meeting of the Group was held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22nd, 1964, at "The Feathers," Tudor Street, London, E.C.4. The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Group, Mr. D. W. Wilson, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

A discussion on "The Weighing of Small Quantities" was opened by F. H. Oliver and Miss J. P. Dixon, F.R.I.C.

### BIOLOGICAL METHODS GROUP

THE nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Group was held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12th, 1963, at "The Feathers," Tudor Street, London, E.C.4. The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Group, Mr. W. A. Broom, B.Sc., F.R.I.C. The following Officers and Committee Members were elected for the forthcoming year:—*Chairman*—Mr. W. A. Broom. *Vice-Chairman*—Dr. M. W. Parkes. *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*—Mr. K. L. Smith, Standards Department, Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd., Pennyfoot Street, Nottingham. *Members of Committee*—Miss A. M. Jones, Mr. D. C. M. Adamson, Mr. B. Crowhurst, Dr. I. D. Fleming, Mr. A. W. MacFarlane and Dr. F. W. Norris. *Hon. Recorder*—Dr. Jillian M. Bond. Mr. D. M. Freeland and Dr. J. H. Hamence were reappointed Hon. Auditors.

Immediately after the Annual General Meeting, a Discussion Meeting on "The Detection of Substances with Teratogenic Properties" was opened by K. E. V. Spencer, B.Sc.

#### ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROSCOPY DISCUSSION PANEL

THE first Annual General Meeting of the Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy Discussion Panel of the Physical Methods Group was held at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3rd, 1963, in the Meeting Room of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W.1. The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Panel, Mr. W. T. Elwell, F.R.I.C. The following were re-elected for the forthcoming year:—*Chairman*—Mr. W. T. Elwell. *Hon. Secretary*—Mr. D. Moore, Hilger & Watts Ltd., 98 St. Pancras Way, London, N.W.1. *Other Members of Committee*—Mr. T. R. Andrew, Dr. J. B. Dawson, Mr. W. W. Fletcher and Mr. R. Lockyer.,

The Annual General Meeting was followed by the fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Panel, at which the discussion was opened by Dr. W. Slavin.