



ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

Walter J. Murphy, Editor

Change of Name Approved

THE proposal to change the name of the Division of Analytical and Micro Chemistry to the Division of Analytical Chemistry has been approved by an overwhelming vote of the division members.

We believe the change is a highly desirable one. Certainly it does not mean any reduction in the attention paid the field of microchemistry by either the division or this publication. It does provide a more all-inclusive name for the division and an opportunity to serve better the needs of analysts in all branches of analytical chemistry.

We are now presented with a great challenge to build the division into the largest, most active, and most effective division within the Society. The groundwork has been laid this year under the able leadership of Wayne A. Kirklin. Still further gains will be achieved in 1950 when Grant T. Wernimont takes over the chairmanship. What is needed are interested analysts in each analytical laboratory who will solicit division memberships. In size there are strength and the possibility of increased service to the profession of analytical chemistry.

The Union Meeting at Amsterdam

LARGELY as the result of a proposal by I. M. Kolthoff at the 1947 meeting of the International Union of Pure Chemistry held in London that the union undertake the standardization of physicochemical data used in analytical chemistry, a decision was reached at the recent Amsterdam meeting to organize under the union a Section of Analytical Chemistry.

Heretofore the union has had only one commission dealing specifically with analytical chemistry—New Analytical Reactions and Reagents. The desirability of the step taken in Amsterdam need not be elaborated upon before an audience of analytical chemists.

The new section will be governed by a board of twelve, which will have authority to appoint committees to deal with specific problems and which is also authorized to offer its services in the organization of international meetings on analytical chemistry.

There is at present no analytical chemist among the vice presidents of the union and for this reason Sir Ian Heilbron has been placed in nominal charge of this section, but C. J. Van Nieuwenburg of the Netherlands

will act as the director of the section until the time of the 1951 meeting. Professor Kolthoff is vice president, Professor Wenger of Geneva is the European secretary, and Dr. Ashley of Pittsfield (General Electric), is the American secretary.

Certainly the establishment of a Section of Analytical Chemistry will be looked upon as a very progressive step by analysts the world over and should encourage analytical chemists to support the 1951 meeting to be held in New York City.

Most heartening were the informal remarks of Edward Wichers, chief of the Chemistry Division, National Bureau of Standards, and a delegate to the Amsterdam meeting, speaking before the luncheon meeting of the advisory boards of ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY and *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* in Atlantic City last month. Real solid progress was made at the union meeting in Amsterdam and the outlook for the success of the union never was better, according to Dr. Wichers.

Women as Analysts

CORNELIA T. Snell of Foster D. Snell, Inc., speaking before the Division of Chemical Education in Atlantic City last month, described the expanding opportunities for women in the field of analytical chemistry.

The distaff side of the chemical profession compiled an enviable record during World War II, particularly in analytical work. It is encouraging to hear from Dr. Snell that representatives from a number of concerns now visit the placement bureaus of some of the women's colleges, looking for new talent.

The erroneous idea that chemical analysts (and we do not mean technicians) are somehow inferior to chemists in other branches of the science of chemistry has disappeared to a considerable extent. As a result of this trend in the thinking of the profession as a whole, young men and women are viewing a career in analytical chemistry with more favor than in the past.

If we accept Dr. Snell's description of analytical chemistry—"It is the cornerstone of all chemistry, whether research or some other seemingly unrelated aspect of science"—then there is no necessity for any one, man or woman, to view a career in analytical work with misgiving, provided, of course, the candidate possesses the many necessary qualifications.