

Reports of Meetings

South East Region

The Inaugural Meeting of the Region was held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21st, 1975, at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. The meeting was opened by the President of the Analytical Division, Dr. G. W. C. Milner, who introduced the Chairman of the Region, Mr. C. A. Johnson. Mr. Johnson then took the Chair.



Mr. C. A. Johnson (L) taking over the Chair from the President.

A lecture on "The Chemical Industry and Analytical Chemistry—Three Ages" was given by C. Whalley.

Mr. Johnson announced the members of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Region as follows. *Chairman*—Mr. C. A. Johnson. *Honorary Secretary*—Dr. J. Warren, Laboratory of the Government Chemist, Cornwall House; Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NQ. *Honorary Treasurer*—Mr. D. W. Houghton. *Members of Committee*—Dr. A. H. Andrews, Mr. R. Goulden, Dr. S. J. Lyle, Mr. R. Sawyer and Mr. W. H. C. Shaw.

The lecture was followed by a cheese and wine party in the Rooms of the Chemical Society, Burlington House.

Midlands Region

An Ordinary Meeting of the Region was held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13th, 1975, at Henry Wiggin and Co. Ltd., Hereford, when a disputation in the form of an ecclesiastical court took place. The Vice-Chairman of the Region, Dr. A. Townshend, explained the rules of the meet-

ing and introduced the "Cardinals," Professor R. Belcher, Professor E. Bishop, Dr. A. A. Smales, Dr. D. Thorburn Burns and Mr. C. Whalley, and the "Devil's Advocate," Dr. L. S. Bark. In the unavoidable absence of the President, who was to have acted as "Pope," it was announced that the Cardinals had held a hurried election and had elected Mr. Whalley to act in this capacity.

Five analytical techniques were put forward as the techniques most free from the cardinal errors of imprecision, insensitivity, restricted range, low cost effectiveness, labour intensiveness and limited applicability. Each postulator in turn was allowed ten minutes to put his case, and was then subjected for five minutes to detailed cross-examination and to the good-natured but, at times, sharp wit of Dr. Bark. The postulators were Mr. S. Greenfield (plasma spectroscopy), Mr. P. W. Hurley (X-ray fluorescence), Mr. J. Woodward (atomic spectroscopy), Dr. V. J. Jennings (polarography) and Dr. D. J. Williams (colorimetry).

After the postulators had presented their cases and been cross-examined by Dr. Bark, the Cardinals discussed the techniques generally and then each in turn advised the Pope as to the merits of each case as presented. Mr. Whalley thanked the Cardinals for their advice and, after summing up, announced that he had decided that two of the techniques were worthy of canonisation on the cases presented, namely plasma spectroscopy and polarography.

Joint Meeting

A Joint Meeting of the Scottish and North East Regions with the Microchemical Methods, Atomic Spectroscopy, Chromatography and Electrophoresis, Automatic Methods, Radiochemical Methods and Electroanalytical Groups was held on Thursday and Friday, June 19th and 20th, 1975, in the Department of Chemistry, The University, St. Andrews. The subject of the meeting was "The Application of New Techniques in Environmental Analysis."

Members were welcomed by Dr. J. M. Ottaway, Chairman of the Scottish Region, and by Professor P. A. H. Wyatt on behalf of the University of St. Andrews. The Chair at the first session was taken by the President of the AD, Dr. G. W. C. Milner. The following papers

were presented: *Plenary Lecture* on "Rational Priorities for Pollution Control," by Professor D. Bryce-Smith; "The Continuous Monitoring of Effluents Using Ion-selective Electrodes," by M. E. Hofton; "Determination of Steroids in Effluents," by J. P. Dawson and G. Best. The Chair at the second session was taken by Mr. A. E. Bottom, Chairman of the Electroanalytical Group, and the following papers were presented and discussed: "Variability in the Chemical Composition of Sea Water," by E. J. Hamilton; "The Application of Radionuclide Measurements to the Study of the Marine Environment," by J. W. R. Dutton; "Spark-source Mass Spectrometry of Soils," by A. M. Ure; "Problems Associated with the Mass Spectrometric Confirmation of Nitrosamines in Foodstuffs," by K. S. Webb; "Studies of Lead in Exhaust Particulates by Radioactive Tracer Techniques," by A. Morgan.

The Chair at the third session was taken by Dr. R. Smith, Chairman of the Atomic Spectroscopy Group, and the following papers were presented and discussed: "Legislation with Regard to Present and Future Requirements," by E. A. B. Birse; "The Automated Analysis of Fresh Water Systems as a Means of Pollution Control," by C. S. Franklin; "Polarographic Studies of Some Organic Pollutants in Water," by W. F. Smyth, J. P. Hart and M. Hassanzadeh; "Biological Activity Measurement and its Application to Pollution Control," by P.

Coackley. The Chair at the fourth session was taken by Mr. F. E. Harper, Chairman of the North East Region, and the following papers were presented and discussed: "Recent Development in the Analysis of Carbon Monoxide in Air and Blood," by B. T. Commins; "Multiple Pollutant Monitoring using Spectroscopic and Gas Chromatographic Methods in a Mobile Laboratory," by P. A. Hollingdale-Smith; "Carbon Furnace Atomic-absorption Analysis of Atmospheric Particulates," by J. M. Ottaway and D. C. Hough; "Instruments for the Continuous Analysis of Air Pollution in an Urban Environment," by H. M. N. Stewart.

The Conference Dinner was held on the evening of Thursday, June 19th, at which the President presented the Robert Boyle Essay Award to Ian C. Hunter of Rubislaw Academy, Aberdeen, and a short address was given by Professor H. M. N. H. Irving. The meeting also included a full social programme.

Electroanalytical Group

A meeting of the Group was held at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 13th, 1975, in Lecture Theatre C, Chemistry Department, Imperial College, London, S.W.7. The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Group, Mr. A. E. Bottom.

A lecture on "Micromolar Analysis—Sinusoidal Hydrodynamic Modulation at the Rotating Ring-disc Electrode" was given by S. Bruckenstein.