

Annual Report of the Chemistry Department

1935-1936

Two major changes in the senior staff of the Chemistry Department occurred this last year. Dr. L. L. Quill, Associate in the Inorganic Division, accepted an Assistant Professorship at Ohio State University and his place was filled by an instructor, Dr. D. G. Nicholson; Assistant Professor S. S. Kistler left the University to take charge of an industrial research laboratory and Dr. H. F. Johnstone was appointed as Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering to fill the vacancy.

Professor R. C. Fuson was on leave of absence during the first semester.

As in the past two years the most significant fact about the department is the substantial increase in enrollment and consequent complications arising therefrom. Many of our junior, senior and graduate courses are much too large to handle competently in single lecture sections. Several courses had to be restricted in enrollment on account of limited laboratory space. The comparative registration in chemistry courses for the past seven years is given as follows:

	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Total</u>
I Sem. 1929-30	1635	3046
II Sem. 1929-30	1374	2282
I Sem. 1930-31	1656	3216
II Sem. 1930-31	1368	3025
I Sem. 1931-32	1491	3378
II Sem. 1931-32	1321	3101
I Sem. 1932-33	1286	3162
II Sem. 1932-33	970	2731
I Sem. 1933-34	1123	2850
II Sem. 1933-34	1063	2606
I Sem. 1934-35	1358	3230
II Sem. 1934-35	1159	2940
I Sem. 1935-36	1208	3627
II Sem. 1935-36	1358	3377

The number of graduate students has not changed markedly. In 1930 the Department considered very carefully how the enrollment might be forced down to a considerably lower figure than at that time. In spite of everything reasonable that could be done in the way of requirements and qualifications, but excluding specific limitation of graduates, the number has not dropped appreciably and I do not foresee that it will.

I believe our Ph.D. students are as well trained as those from any other institution and very few are not qualified to be considered brilliant. The exact data on graduate student registration for the past few years are given as follows:

I Sem. 1929-30.....	135
II Sem. 1929-30.....	139
I Sem. 1930-31.....	155
II Sem. 1930-31.....	148
I Sem. 1931-32.....	188
II Sem. 1931-32.....	157
I Sem. 1932-33.....	158
II Sem. 1932-33.....	147
I Sem. 1933-34.....	150
II Sem. 1933-34.....	139
I Sem. 1934-35.....	156
II Sem. 1934-35.....	144
I Sem. 1935-36.....	169
II Sem. 1935-36.....	170

This past year it became necessary to reinstate the plan of several years ago, to repeat many of the freshman courses in both semesters. This demand has come from the other colleges on the campus.

The Department is now feeling the lack of the proper number of senior staff members to junior staff members and this is something that should be remedied as promptly as possible. A continuation as at present is bound to be reflected in the quality of teaching and research.

There has never been a greater demand by the industry for trained chemists and I see no reason for any slackening of this demand in the next few years. In view of this fact and in recognition of the successful training at Illinois the Chemical Foundation offered ten \$600 fellowships for each three years to aid worthy graduate students to study for their Ph.D. degrees.

A number of post-Ph.D.'s have been associated with the Department this last year as follows:

Dr. Samuel Gurin - National Research Council Fellow
Dr. J. N. Mrgudich - Storage Battery Research Fellow
Dr. R. R. Sterrett - Continental Oil Research Fellow
Dr. R. E. Christ - du Pont Research Fellow

The output of scientific articles by the Department has remained high and the quality of the work is certainly no lower than in the past. For his valuable contributions to American chemistry Dr. W. A. Noyes was awarded last June the Priestley Medal, the highest award of the American Chemical Society. Dr. W. C. Rose on account of his brilliant accomplishments in the field of proteins and amino acids was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.