

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

1936-1937

The most important fact about the Chemistry Department for 1936-1937 is the substantial increase in enrollment in chemistry courses. Below is given a table summarizing the data:

TABLE

	Average 1st Sem. 1926-30	1st Sem. 1936	Per cent increase
Total enrollment in chemistry courses	2943	4089	38
Number of freshmen	1616	1833	13
Number of graduate students (includes research men not registered)	129	215	67
Number of students in chemistry curriculum	90	221	131
Number of students in chemical engineering curriculum	142	325	134
Number of senior staff members	25	25	0
Number of assistants	62	96	55
Total budget in thousands	226	249	10
Operation (exclusive of salaries) in thousands	67	77	15

Changes in the senior staff over the previous year have been few. Dr. E. W. Comings was appointed Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering to replace Dr. N. W. Krase

who left to take charge of the chemical engineering department at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Comings has done excellent work and shows great promise. Mr. F. C. Howard, Instructor in Chemical Engineering, accepted an appointment at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the vacancy could not be filled this past year by a man of senior rank owing to the fact that the resignation was not received until mid-summer. It is hoped to find a satisfactory candidate for appointment before the opening of the next college year.

The teaching in the Department has been of about the same caliber as in the past. However, it has become increasingly difficult to give proper instruction comparable with past years, in the advanced courses. The enrollment in such courses should be 15-30, but many of the junior and senior courses have 130-170 students and many of the graduate courses have 50-70 registered. It is almost essential that these courses be taught in several sections if the students are to receive the most benefit from them. The problem of handling the increased number of research men is becoming serious and additions to our senior staff are imperative unless graduate registration is to be limited.

In spite of teaching handicaps, the activity of the senior staff in research has been significant. During the calendar year 1936, for which the statistics are available, 87 scientific articles, book reviews and books have been published by members of the staff. The reputation of the Department throughout the country is at least holding

its own. More and more industrial fellowships and research assistantships have been offered to the Department. These are particularly desirable as they make possible the study of problems which could not otherwise be carried out. No fellowships or assistantships have been accepted which have any restriction beyond the specification of a very general field of work.

Honors that have come to staff members and that have not been previously reported, have been received by Drs. Rose and Clark. Dr. Rose has been made a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Nutrition and of the Journal of Biological Chemistry, a member of the Council on Pharmacy and Nutrition of the American Medical Association and of the Society of Biological Chemists. Dr. G. L. Clark has been awarded an honorary degree from DePauw University which will be conferred at the coming commencement exercises.

The major problem of the Chemistry Department, at present, is to decrease the size of its classes and to add more senior staff members who can share the responsibilities arising from increased enrollment. There is a certain discouragement at the whole situation which is appearing among our staff members and which must be dispelled. The danger that we shall become merely a factory for chemical students rather than an organization where it is possible to give the students something beyond a technical training, now exists.