

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

1938-1939

The restriction of sophomore chemistry and chemical engineering students to those who completed the freshman year with an average of 3.2, and junior students to those who maintained an average for the freshman and sophomore years of at least 3.5 has been working effectively. The elimination of about one-third of those signifying their intention of specializing in these fields has resulted. A recommendation for next year, which has been approved, that at the end of the freshman year and continuously thereafter students must maintain a 3.5 average, should not modify appreciably the present registration. It is a bit disturbing that many of those students who have been eliminated have transferred to fields in which chemistry is required and consequently they are appearing again in the service courses offered by the Department of chemistry. The space which we had hoped to have by restriction has thus been lost partially to service students.

The requirement that students entering the Graduate School in chemistry and chemical engineering be limited to those having at least seventy-five per cent of their undergraduate work of A or B grade has resulted in the exclusion of many applicants for admission. It has not, however, been effective in reducing the total number of graduate students in chemistry, in fact the registration last fall was larger

than ever before. Some further means of reducing the number of graduate students or at least of maintaining merely the present number must be devised.

A new experiment has been adopted this year in regard to chemical engineers. They have been segregated into a single section in the freshman year and have been given two five-hour courses covering the work previously taken in thirteen credit hours. If this can be accomplished successfully more time in the junior and senior years will be available for elective or more specialized courses.

The chemistry building has recently been dedicated as "The William Albert Noyes Laboratory of Chemistry." Recommendation by the Chemistry Department that an appropriation be requested of the Legislature for an additional unit to relieve the space difficulty, resulted in a recommendation that \$100,000 be appropriated for fireproofing the building. Apparently the Building Committee is unconvinced regarding the space in spite of all the comparative statistics and arguments which can be offered. If the present chemistry building is to be used indefinitely, the greatest hazard to the health of students and staff is the complete lack of ventilation. So far as I know it is the only chemistry building in the world about which this can be said. Two facetious remarks by staff members I am passing on. One said that the Chemistry Building should have been dedicated "The William Albert Noyes Laboratory of Chemistry with one hood." The other was that

if the Building Committee investigated carefully they would not be worried about a fire hazard since the air in the building would not support combustion.

The Chemistry Department has received this past year grants for fellowships and research assistantships totaling more than in previous years.

The scientific publications from the chemistry staff for the calendar year 1938 numbered one hundred fourteen.

Dr. W. C. Rose was elected President of the American Society of Biochemists.

Roger Adams

May 15, 1939