

July 12, 1944

Dean M. T. McClure  
203 Lincoln Hall

Dear Dean McClure:

I regret that, because of illness and the necessity of completing a Committee Report which the President wished to receive at the earliest possible moment, I have been unable to transmit more promptly the Annual Report of the Chemistry Department for the Session 1943-44. It is being submitted herewith.

#### STAFF AND TEACHING

Few changes have occurred in the senior staff of the Department during the past year. Professor T. E. Phipps was given a leave of absence for one year, effective February 1, 1944, in order that he might engage in important war researches at the Metallurgical Laboratory of the University of Chicago. Little likelihood exists that he will be able to return to the University of Illinois at the expiration of this period. In the meantime, his place is being filled by Dr. F. A. Miller, who began his duties in the Department with the summer session. Dr. Miller came to us from the

University of Minnesota where he served for two years as a fellow of the National Research Council. He received his training at Johns Hopkins University. The only other addition to the senior staff during the current session was that of Dr. V. G. Boekelheide, who succeeded Dr. Stanley Wawzonek, who resigned to accept a position elsewhere. Dr. Boekelheide was trained at the University of Minnesota.

The year has been an extremely busy and difficult one for the staff. The frequent shifts in teaching loads made necessary by the unpredictable changes in the number of registrants in the civilian, AST, and V-12 programs have presented many unusual problems. Despite the fact that several members of the staff were required temporarily to carry excessive instructional responsibilities, and the occurrence of incessant alterations in the personnel of the assistants, everyone has performed his or her duties cheerfully and in a most acceptable fashion. The quality of the teaching has suffered little, if any, during these trying times. Furthermore, a fine spirit of cooperation has been manifested by every employee regardless of rank. This has not only been gratifying, but has rendered the administrative responsibilities far less arduous than they otherwise might have been.

It is always a privilege in these reports to record the honors which have come to the staff in recognition of their professional attainments. A number of such honors have

been awarded during the past year. Professor Roger Adams was the recipient of the Elliott Cresson Gold Medal and Certificate from the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia "for discovery or original research, adding to the sum of human knowledge, irrespective of commercial value." Professor G. S. Marvel was elected President of the American Chemical Society and Chairman of the Chemistry Section of the National Academy of Sciences. He was also awarded the Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society for his outstanding contributions to polymer chemistry. Recently, he has been placed in charge of the Anti-malarial Research Program being sponsored by the Committee on Medical Research of the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Professor G. L. Clark has been designated as the recipient of the Mehl Medal of the American Industrial Radium and X-ray Society for his pioneering investigations in the application of X-rays to the solution of industrial problems. The award will be made at the annual meeting of the Society in October.

Professor D. B. Keyes, who during his leave of absence from the University has served as Chief of the Chemicals Division, Office of Production Research Development, War Production Board, has been promoted to Acting Director of that office.

Professor R. C. Fuson received the signal honor of being elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

These achievements serve to emphasize the national standing of

the individuals in question. The University is indeed fortunate in having men of this caliber as members of its staff.

In this connection, it may not be amiss to call attention to the outstanding qualities of certain of the younger members of the Chemistry Staff. Reference is made particularly to Associate Professors H. E. Carter, G. C. Price, H. R. Snyder, and F. T. Wall, and Assistant Professors H. A. Laitinen and G. T. Moeller. Perhaps not all of these young men may be said to have acquired national reputations, but certainly each is approaching that status very rapidly. Already, they have demonstrated their ability as successful teachers and productive scholars. Their services are being sought more and more by other institutions. It is of vital importance to the future of the Department that their advancement in rank and salary keep pace with their scientific attainments. Upon their shoulders, if they are retained at the University of Illinois, will fall the responsibilities of the present divisional heads when the latter reach the age of retirement. Furthermore, a number of young men of great promise are to be found among the ranks of associates and instructors. Indeed, one may affirm without fear of contradiction that the Department is now manned by an exceptionally competent staff. No efforts should be spared to keep it so.

ENROLLMENT

As was to be expected, the civilian student enrollment in the Department has shown a profound drop during the present session. Comparative data on the number of freshmen, the number of graduate students, the registration in the chemistry and chemical engineering curricula and the total enrollment in courses for the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 are presented in the following table

	1942-43		1943-44	
	I Semester	II Semester	I Semester	II Semester
Total enrollment in Chemistry courses	4091	2989	1896	1388
Freshmen	1938	1180	736	530
Graduate Students	159	153	141	140
Students in Chemistry Curriculum	205	123	83	69
Students in Chemical Engineering Curriculum	346	246	119	87
Total enrollment in courses, 1942-43			7,080	
Total enrollment in courses, 1943-44			3,281	

As will be observed, the total enrollment in courses for the present session was 3,281 as compared with 7,080 during the preceding year. Similar decreases occurred in the number of freshmen and in the number of registrants in the two professional curricula. The graduate enrollment diminished to a lesser extent, amounting to 11 and 9 per cent for the first and second semesters respectively. However, many of those who registered at the beginning of the second semester have since been called into the military service or have accepted positions in war industries. The marked drop in civilian registration was compensated for to a considerable extent during most of the year by the large enrollment of students in the AST and V-12 Programs.

#### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

During the calendar year, 1943, 60 scientific papers were published by the chemistry faculty as compared with 109 during 1942. This decrease is quite understandable, and was due to the fact that many of the staff are devoting a large part of their time to confidential researches under governmental contracts. For obvious reasons, the results of these investigations cannot be published until after the war.

In addition to the papers referred to above, certain members of the staff have participated in the publication of books. "Organic Reactions" is edited by a group of prominent

American organic chemists of which Professors Adams and Snyder are members. Volume II of this work appeared during the current session. "Organic Synthesis" is issued annually.

Professors Adams, Marvel, and Fuson are members of the Advisory Board and Professor Snyder is a member of the Editorial Board. Volume 23 of this publication appeared during the past year.

Industrial firms have continued to provide grants in support of graduate fellowships within the Department. Those available during the year 1943-44 are listed below:

2 Allied Chemical and Dye Fellowships	\$1500
1 Abbott Laboratories Fellowship	750
1 Eastman Kodak Fellowship	1000
1 Eli Lilly Fellowship	750
1 du Pont Fellowship	750
1 Aeration Processes Fellowship	750
1 Coca Cola Company Fellowship	680

In addition, more than \$50,000 were provided by industries and foundations for the employment of thirteen research assistants and for the purchase of special equipment and supplies. A much larger number of fellowships and assistantships could have been secured by the Department had the operation of the Selective Service System permitted graduate students to accept appointments of this nature.

NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS

All of the confidential contracts enumerated in my report of May 19, 1943, have been continued during the present session. Some have been greatly enlarged. This is particularly true of the project in which Professor H. F. Johnstone is engaged. Reference has already been made to the increased responsibilities of Professor Marvel through his selection to direct the Anti-malarial Program. This is in addition to his extensive activities in rubber research. At present, fourteen members of the senior staff and a large number of assistants are devoting part or all of their time to defense programs within the Department. Several other members of the staff are serving as consultants to various governmental agencies. One cannot foresee how long any of these activities will be continued. The success with which the defense problems are being prosecuted by the faculty has already attracted favorable attention in Washington. Thus, through these investigations, the Department is not only performing an extremely valuable service to the country during the war emergency, but is enhancing the reputation of the University as well. We may confidently anticipate that this added distinction will be reflected in a large increase in the number of graduate students who elect to pursue their chemistry training in this Department at the expiration of the war.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. C. Rose



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES  
203 Lincoln Hall

May 24, 1944

TO THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS:

Will you kindly prepare for me the annual report for your department, covering the work of the current year.

If possible I should like to have your report by June 5.

Very sincerely yours,

*M.T. McClure*  
M.T. McClure  
Dean

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