

law has been framed by the Soil Improvement Committee and a committee appointed by the chairman of the National Fertilizer Association which will be presented to the Association of Commissioners of Agriculture in the effort to enlist their cooperation toward uniform legislation in all states.

The report by Paul Rudnick from the Committee on Research and Methods of Analysis states that the committee has before it the following subjects:

**METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF SULFUR IN PYRITES**—Mr. H. C. Moore has completed his work and has developed a satisfactory method, based on the Allen & Bishop Method, and intended to replace the faulty Lunge method. This will be presented to the Supervisory Committee for approval as soon as possible.

**METHOD FOR VALUATION OF NITRATE OF SODA**—This subject has been taken up by Dr. E. W. Magruder. The purpose of this work is to select or develop a suitable method for the valuation of nitrate of soda for commercial purposes to replace the antiquated, faulty West Coast Refraction method.

**METHOD FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AMMONIUM SULFATE**—The purpose of this work is to develop a satisfactory method for the sampling and analysis of commercial ammonium sulfate. It has not been possible to assign this subject up to the present time, but every effort will be made to get it under way as quickly as possible.

This being the regular meeting for the election of officers, a motion was passed authorizing the chairman to appoint a nominating committee to return recommendations for officers for the coming year. The chairman appointed for this committee Messrs. Atwater, Rudnick and Blair, who recommended the following:

*Chairman*, F. B. CARPENTER; *Vice Chairman*, R. N. BRACKETT; *Secretary*, H. C. MOORE; *Executive Committee*, H. J. WHEELER, C. H. JONES, E. W. MAGRUDER, A. J. PATTEN.

A motion was made and duly passed that the secretary cast the vote of the division for the names as recommended.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

H. C. MOORE, *Secretary*

## NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS SECRETARY'S OFFICE, A. C. S.

Members should note that the address of the Secretary, Charles L. Parsons, is changed from Box 1505, Washington, D. C., to 1709 G St., N. W., Washington, D. C. The SOCIETY has opened new offices at this address. Dr. Parsons has resigned from the Bureau of Mines in order to give more time to SOCIETY work. He will also undertake a limited amount of private consulting work, especially in the lines of inorganic chemistry and mineral technology, which he has for the past eight years handled for the Bureau of Mines.

### THE DECENNIAL INDEX AS AN AID TO ORGANIC RESEARCH

The final volume of the decennial index to *Chemical Abstracts* will soon be in the hands of subscribers. The two subject volumes form a practically complete index to chemical literature for the years which they cover and the annual indexes for 1917 and succeeding years, being arranged on the same system, may be regarded as supplements to it, bringing it up to date periodically. The object of this note is to call attention to the unique aid which this system of indexes offers in the searching of organic literature.

The naming of the organic compounds according to a *uniform system* and indexing them under the names of *parent compounds* to an extent not hitherto attempted in an index, give the system some of the features of a general handbook of organic compounds, combined with the very great advantage of up-to-dateness. It fills a need, therefore, which even a formula index (much as that is to be desired) could not meet; and it has, in fact, already been used at Ohio State University in manuscript form with gratifying results.

One example may be given: Suppose that someone wishes to look up the literature of the benzotriazoles (azimidobenzenes). At "Benzotriazole" in the decennial index will be found the full names of 115 compounds, arranged in order, with their page references. Of the 25 abstracts in which these compounds are described, only 6 give any indication in the title that would lead to their being indexed under one of the class names given above. Consequently, in the ten annual indexes, prepared in the customary way, only 15 of the 115 compounds would easily be found. The rest are scattered through the vocabulary by reason of the fact that their names have such beginnings as "dinitro-," "phenyl-," etc. Two more abstracts contain so much space on benzotriazoles that they should have been indexed under this class heading in spite of the fact that neither this name nor any

synonym of it is mentioned or implied in the title. If this had been done 48 more compounds could have been found, making 63, although they would not, of course, have been tabulated in convenient form as they are in the decennial index. However, it appears that nearly half (52) of the compounds of the benzotriazole group which were described during the ten years, were published more or less incidentally in 17 articles and could hardly have been found conveniently in the best of indexes on the old plan. If a decennial formula index were available the searcher could merely ascertain whether any particular compound had or had not been described.

The *ring index* is an additional, and, so far as is known, original, feature which will enable a user of the indexes to trace down by its formula (he need not know its name), any ring complex, however complicated, and its derivatives as well. Some 450 names of parent rings are listed in the decennial ring index alone, and many of these stand for two or more isomers, so it will be seen that such an index is needed. It is supplemented by a large number of numbered ring formulas in the main index. A list of organic *radical names* (about 330), with their formulas, is also given, so that no doubt will exist as to their meaning.

The present editors of *Chemical Abstracts* are to be congratulated on the many admirable general features of the new indexes, such as the "entry-a-line" plan, abundant use of cross references and notes, indexing of subjects rather than words, etc. One of these features will be of special help to the organic chemist if he will take the trouble to become used to it, namely, the little superior figure at the end of the page reference which indicates the ninth of a page. When the page is full of organic names a great deal of time is saved by narrowing down the choice to one or a few. With a little practice the location becomes very easy indeed.

XENIA, OHIO  
August 27, 1919

AUSTIN M. PATTERSON

### AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

At the 58th Meeting of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY a large banner in the SOCIETY's colors was hung in front of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. This banner, which is made of the best material and is a beautiful SOCIETY emblem, was purchased by Dr. George D. Rosengarten and has been presented to the SOCIETY to be kept in charge of the Secretary to be used when needed at future meetings of the SOCIETY. I feel also that public acknowledgment should be made of the fact that has heretofore been unknown to the members that Dr. Rosengarten has for some years furnished to the SOCIETY the high-