

ASTPE Meetings
Valparaiso University
October 23-24, 1959

R. W. Swette, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, presiding.

Dr. Swette reported briefly on the symposium held in Atlantic City in September 1959 in the Division of Chemical Education of the A.C.S. He mentioned:

- 1) A trend to teach organic chemistry before analytical in some schools.
- 2) Concern that we are not teaching enough about organic analysis.
- 3) A trend to switch from conventional to single pan balances.

Other ideas discussed by the group included:

- 1) A trend to shift the year of analytical chemistry with instrumental analysis at the senior level preceded by organic and physical chemistry.
- 2) A shift in curriculum at St. Olaf's includes general and organic chemistry the first year, followed by a four semester physical-analytical course taught by physical chemists. The senior year offers advanced organic and inorganic for majors.
- 3) Carleton College offers a physics-chemistry course freshman year. This is followed by principles of equilibria the second year which unites the conventional qualitative scheme and includes analytical methods to illustrate equilibria theory as well as technique.

4) It was suggested a second year of intensive qualitative and quantitative could include preliminary qualitative exercises and allow the students to devise their own schemes. It was agreed that the qualitative scheme is probably outdated and represents extremely complex equilibria.

5) Some laboratory ideas:

- a. Let quantitative students assay benzoic acid prepared by organic students and report results.
- b. Have quantitative students save time by using up stock solutions (such as chlorides and iron oxalate) and use them when they are not used.
- c. Increase the use of H_2O to include analysis of iron H_2O and distilled H_2O .
- d. Why not draw out CaCO_3 and deposition is quantitative or use the solubility product of CaCO_3 for radio chemistry?
- e. Use of laboratory "targets" for teaching.

6) Some new reagents:

- a. It is a mistake to generalize with solubility rules and calculations.
- b. Some reagents such as CaCO_3 and CaO are now available.

1. Prof. G. H. Whittaker, U.S. Geological Survey,
Washington, D.C. 20540
2. Mr. J. H. ...
3. Mr. ...

Laurel Gennan
Mrs. ...
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