

Notes from the 10/23/78 Discussion Group on Inorganic Chemistry

14 Members were present and Anne Sherren served as coordinator.

Discussion began with a short discussion of the inorganic programs at the various colleges represented. Most courses were of a rather traditional nature--offered during senior year with a physical chemistry prerequisite(corequisite), with texts such as Huheey, Cotton and Wilkinson(short version), Purcell and Kotz. About half had formal laboratory work associated with them. A few had courses taken earlier without physical chemistry prerequisites. Several persons had integrated laboratory courses at the upper level which included inorganic chemistry.

What is meant by "descriptive inorganic chemistry"? What are needed are organizing principles--this could include the periodic table, acid-base (hard-soft, Lewis) oxidation-reduction potentials, cycles in nature.

What goes on in the laboratory? It appears that usually a set group of experiments are required.

The ACS Professional Training Committee has indicated that inorganic chemistry is to be included as a selective course along with biochemistry and polymer chemistry. No comments were made by this MACTLAC group.

There was considerable concern about the content of the textbooks presently available--especially the presence of "quantum mechanics" near the beginning.

ATS:a

*I hope these are adequate -
Anne*