

The CBA Project - Ted Benfey

An account was given of the Chemical Bond Approach Project, now in its second trial year and being tested in over a hundred schools. The course was developed by nine high school and nine college teachers and is supported by a series of grants from the National Science Foundation. Taking as its central theme the major bond types, the high school course attempts to present a unified picture of chemistry rather than a large number of separate topics. Structure is emphasized as well as energy concepts. The course begins with a simple charge cloud model with which a large number of physical and chemical properties of the smaller atoms and their compounds are explained.

The laboratory is designed to parallel closely the material covered in class. The student often has to develop experimental methods on his own. The better students are asked to develop "extensions" of the laboratory assignment.

Earle Scott, presently traveling among the CBA test schools, and Elton Knutsen a CBA teacher in the Alexander Ramsey High School of St. Paul, participated in the discussion.

Further information may be obtained by writing to the Chemical Bond Approach Project, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana