



COE COLLEGE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

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William Deskin
Cornell College
Mount Vernon, Iowa

Dear Bill:

I thought that perhaps Jim had passed on the notes of the discussion group to you. I hope the resume' below is satisfactory.

A report from the Organic Group of the Conference on Undergraduate Chemical Education at Bucknell University was read and discussed. The suggestion that the organic laboratory should include more experiments of a quantitative nature was considered. It was suggested that the merit of the suggestion could be tested by each of us initiating and evaluating a few such experiments with the object of comparing notes at the next annual MACTLAC meeting.

The Organic Group at Bucknell had questioned the place of the standard Qualitative Organic course and wondered if its fate was going to be the same as the fate of Qualitative Inorganic. In discussing this matter a number of people indicated that they were now including some qualitative analysis in their general organic course. It was felt that a separate Qualitative Organic course should be retained, but it should be more realistic and more quantitative.

The use of standard taper in the organic laboratory was discussed. Its greater cost represented an important drawback although there was general agreement that it was educationally desirable. The comment was made that ball and socket joints might be preferable.

Techniques for evaluating the organic laboratory were considered. It was granted that subjective evaluation was necessary. Still practical examinations that measure the ability of the student to see what is wrong with an experimental setup or that analyze his ability to interpret laboratory directions were found to be useful in making an evaluation of the organic laboratory.

Very truly yours,

Frank Pennington