

Jahrgang 1818, S. 158f., unter den «*Miscellanea*»: «*Wirkungen des Einatmens von Schwefeläther-Dampf. Wenn der Dampf von Äther, mit gewöhnlicher Luft vermischt, eingeatmet wird, ruft er Wirkungen hervor, die sehr ähnlich sind denen, die durch Salpeteroxyd verursacht werden* (im Original kursiv). Ein zweckdienliches Verfahren, die Wirkung festzustellen, ist das folgende: Man führt eine Röhre in den oberen Teil einer Flasche ein, und indem man durch sie atmet, spürt man zunächst eine stimulierende Wirkung am Kehledeckel, aber diese nimmt bald ab, ein Gefühl des Andranges zum Kopf wird dann gewöhnlich empfunden und eine Folge von Wirkungen ähnlich denen, die durch Salpeteroxyd hervorgerufen werden. Wenn man die Röhre in die Flasche tiefer herabläßt, wird mehr Äther bei jeder Inspiration eingeatmet, die Wirkung geht schneller vor sich, und die Empfindungen sind vollständiger in ihrer Ähnlichkeit mit denen des Gases. Beim Erproben der Wirkungen von Ätherdampf auf Personen, die gegenüber dem Salpeteroxyd besonders empfindlich sind, wurde ganz unerwartet die Ähnlichkeit der damit hervorgerufenen Empfindung beobachtet. Eine Person, die immer beim Inhalieren des Gases eine Gefühlsdepression empfindet, hatte die Empfindung gleicher Art wie beim Einatmen von (Äther-)Dampf. Es ist nötig, Vorsicht bei den Experimenten dieser Art walten zu lassen. Durch unvorsichtige Einatmung von Äther wurde ein Herr in einen sehr lethargischen Zustand versetzt, der mit gelegentlichen Perioden der Unterbrechung mehr als 30 Stunden andauerte, dazu kam eine starke Gemütsdepression; während vieler Tage war der Puls so geschwächt, daß beträchtliche Befürchtungen für sein Leben gehegt wurden.»

Auch diese Erfahrung blieb unausgenützt. Vielleicht war die daran geknüpfte Warnung schuld an dem Umstand, daß sich niemand weiter an die Beschäftigung mit dem Äther wagte. Zur Ehrenrettung der Ärzte muß aber doch gesagt sein, daß sich wenigstens *ein Vertreter der praktischen Medizin* intensiv mit Narkoseversuchen beschäftigte. Es war dies, wie man durch die Gedenkschrift aus dem «Wellcome Historical Medical Museum» (London 1930) in abschließender Weise informiert wurde, der englische Arzt HENRY HILL HICKMAN (gest. 1830). Doch blieb seinem im Druck erschienenen «*Letter on Suspended Animation*» (Ironbridge 1824) sowie seinen späteren persönlichen Bemühungen bei den französischen Gelehrten jeder Erfolg versagt. Besonders schmerzlich berührt einen die Tatsache, daß nicht einmal DAVY, der 1820–1827 Präsident der «*Royal Society*» war, die Bedeutung der mit Kohlensäuregas unternommenen Tierversuche HICKMANS erkannte. Der ideenreiche Arzt war dazu verurteilt, die Lebensschicksale der späteren amerikanischen Pioniere der Narkose gewissermaßen vorwegzunehmen. Wenn auch LARREY, der große Chirurg aus den Napoleonischen Kriegen, in der französischen Akademie für eine praktische Erprobung der narkotischen Wirkung dieses Stoffes am Menschen plädierte (1828), so trug doch die Resignation des einflußreichen VELPEAU den Sieg davon, der noch im Jahre 1839 schreiben konnte¹: «Den Schmerz bei chirurgischen Operationen zu vermeiden, ist eine Chimäre, die zu erreichen wir heutzutage nicht hoffen dürfen. Messer und Schmerz sind zwei Begriffe, die sich im Denken des Patienten niemals voneinander trennen lassen; und wir Chirurgen müssen deren gegenseitige Verknüpfung hinnehmen.»

H. BUSS

¹ Nach WILLIAM H. WELCH, *A Consideration of Surgical Anæsthesia*, 1908.

The Centenary of the Chemical Society in London

The Chemical Society is to celebrate the centenary of its foundation in July 1947. But for the war the celebrations would have taken place in 1941, for it was "on the 23rd February, 1841, that twenty-five gentlemen interested in the prosecution of chemistry met together at the Society of Arts to consider whether it be expedient to form a Chemical Society". These twenty-five gentlemen did deem it expedient and so the Chemical Society was born. It was the first Society formed solely for the study of chemistry and although there had been small private chemical societies before 1841 none lasted for any great length of time. At its first general meeting THOMAS GRAHAM, the most distinguished chemist of his time, the pioneer of colloid chemistry and a discoverer of much important new chemical knowledge, was elected the first President. The organizer of the meeting on the 23rd February, 1841, and the Society's first Secretary was ROBERT WARINGTON. These two men were the leaders of the new Society and among its present day possessions one of the most valuable is the 100 year old Obligation Book which is still signed by new Fellows on their admission and contains as its first signatures the names of those two pioneers.

The Fellowship of the Society has grown from those twenty-five gentlemen in 1841 to over 6,000. The study of chemistry as a whole has remained its object; because of this the Society has always maintained a special place in the world of chemistry. It has not pursued the purely professional nor has it specially fostered industrial chemistry although many great industries have been based on fundamental discoveries made by its Fellows. The professional affairs of chemists are now the province of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (founded in 1877) and industrial chemistry is the concern of The Society of Chemical Industry (founded in 1881). Both these organizations were offshoots of the Chemical Society, as were other societies specializing in subdivisions of the subject. To-day some of these offshoots, having meantime grown in stature and importance, are again joined with the parent body in The Chemical Council, which consists of representatives of various chemical organizations and through which chemical industry and individuals subscribe to provide assistance in the publication of chemical research and information. Success has from the first attended on the Chemical Society and has been due almost entirely to the ready means it has provided chemists of publishing their discoveries and affording them a place for discussion and mutual interchange of ideas. The Society has been the model and the elder sister of similar chemical societies set up in other countries, particularly those of Germany, France, and the United States of America.

The science of chemistry has made great advances since 1841; a glance through the list of Presidents of the Society provides convincing evidence of the important part played by its Fellows—to name but a few, GRAHAM, HOFMANN, WILLIAMSON, EDWARD FRANKLAND, ODLING, GILBERT, SIR WILLIAM and W. H. PERKIN, CROOKES, RAMSAY, DEWAR, ARMSTRONG, MELDOLA and POPE—every one of these is associated with fundamental chemical discoveries of far-reaching importance.

The discovery of mauve by PERKIN is an example of the way in which the work of the research chemist may have a profound influence on social and economic development. From this early discovery has grown the whole of the present day coal tar industry embracing

dyestuffs manufacture, synthetic medicinals, the photographic industry and much more. The pure research on the growth of plants by GILBERT and LAWES at Rothamsted formed the basis of the vast present day synthetic fertilizer industry, the importance of which in the production of food needs no emphasizing in a hungry world. Every day we can see evidence of the work of men like CROOKES, DEWAR and RAMSAY. The cathode ray tube of CROOKES is the direct ancestor of our television screens, the thermos flask of DEWAR is one example of the application of DEWAR's low temperature experiments and neon display signs are but one instance of the use man has made of RAMSAY's epoch-making discovery of the rare gases. Innumerable instances of benefits to mankind from the discoveries made by the Fellows in their original researches can be cited from the rich proud history of the Society.

With such a history and with its present day virility the Society is clearly justified in planning to make the celebration of its Centenary an important event. The importance was indeed internationally recognized in the decision taken in Rome in 1938 by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to hold its next International Congress in London at the time of the Centenary of the Chemical Society. This decision is to be implemented next year and immediately following the celebrations on July 15th to July 17th 1947, the Eleventh International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry will also take place in London.

An international outlook has always been characteristic of the Society and this will be reflected in the series of social and scientific events which will constitute the three days of celebrations. Many distinguished overseas delegates are to be invited. These will include the Honorary Fellows of the Society, among whom are the world's greatest chemists of to-day. If those invited are able to accept we shall see in London in July 1947 perhaps the greatest international gathering of chemists that will ever have taken place. One of these distinguished chemists will be invited to follow in the line of DUMAS, CANNIZZARO, WURTZ, MENDELEJEV, OSTWALD, FISCHER, RICHARDS, ARRHENIUS, BOHR, DEBYE, RUTHERFORD and LANGMUIR as the Society's Faraday Lecturer. The Faraday Lectureship was founded in 1867 to commemorate the name of MICHAEL FARADAY, who was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1842 and was one of its Vice-Presidents. In addition to the Faraday Lecture, it is intended that there should be a centenary address and a formal ceremony for the presentation of addresses. It is also hoped to arrange a number of scientific lectures, visits to places of interest in the London area and an exhibition which will be at the Science Museum during the period of the celebrations and the International Congress.

The Chemical Society is already well forward in planning for the occasion and has enrolled some of its lead-

ing Fellows as an Executive Committee which has put the arrangements of details in the hands of a number of Sub-Committees; the chairmen of these are indicated in the following list of the members of the Executive.

Professor C. N. HINSCHELWOOD (President of the Society) as
Chairman
Dr. M. P. APPLEBEY
Mr. A. L. BACHARACH (Chairman of the Publicity Sub-Committee)
Dr. G. M. BENNETT
Mr. S. E. CARR
Dr. F. H. CARR
Professor J. W. COOK
Dr. C. J. T. CRONSHAW
Mr. F. P. DUNN (Treasurer of the Society and Chairman of
Finance Sub-Committee)
Sir ALFRED EGERTON
Professor A. FINDLAY (Chairman of Meetings, Entertainments
and Social Functions Sub-Committee)
Professor C. S. GIBSON
Professor J. M. GULLAND
Sir IAN HEILBRON (Chairman of the Reception, Membership and
Accommodation Sub-Committee)
Lady HEILBRON (Chairman of the Ladies Sub-Committee)
Professor D. H. HEY (Honorary Secretary of the Society)
Professor E. L. HIRST
Professor C. K. INGOLD
Dr. L. H. LAMPITT
Dr. R. P. LINSTAD
Professor T. S. MOORE (Chairman of the Centenary Volume Sub-
Committee)
Sir ROBERT PICKARD
Mr. H. V. POTTER
Mr. J. DAVIDSON PRATT
Professor E. K. RIDEAL
Sir ROBERT ROBERTSON (Chairman of the Exhibition Sub-
Committee)
Sir ROBERT ROBINSON
Dr. G. ROCHE LYNCH
Dr. F. ROFFEY
Professor N. V. SIDGWICK
Dr. J. L. SIMONSEN (Honorary Secretary of the Society)
Professor A. R. TODD
Professor W. WARDLAW (Honorary Secretary of the Society)
with Dr. D. C. MARTIN (General Secretary of the Society), as
Secretary.

Corrigendum

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Im Bericht über «X-ray analysis during the war years, 1946 Conference» war beim Referat von R. W. G. WYCKOFF angegeben worden, daß einzelne Tabakmosaikvirusteilchen von 8 Å Durchmesser sichtbar gemacht werden konnten. Diese Angabe beruht auf einem Irrtum und muß durch den Wert 125 Å ersetzt werden.