

The Puget Sound Chemist

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MARCH MEETING

On Wednesday, March 19, we will hear from another eastern speaker; this time an organic chemist. The speaker, Dr. Ed. F. Degering, is associate professor at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. He will address the Section on "Relative Electroegativity: an Empirical Rule."

In these days when the organic chemist is working hand-in-glove with the physical chemist; when he is, indeed, a theoretical chemist himself, it is interesting and instructive to have useful theoretical principles ably interpreted in simple language. Someone has said that if the lawyers used plain language and said John Doe instead of 'the party of the second part' that they would have less business and more friends. Likewise if at times the physical chemists used less formidable mathematical equations they would have more followers and audiences. Dr. Degering will interpret with the benefit of, but without the excessive use of mathematics.

The meeting will be in R.140 Bagley Hall at 7.45 pm. DINNER will be in R.200 Bagley promptly at 6.20 (65¢, no tax). Send in or make reservations by Wednesday morning by calling Me. 0630 Local 435 or 439.

LABORATORIES AND PERSONALITIES, -Northwest Federal Government Laboratories.

In compiling this resume the writer immediately realized the quite large scope of the subject; so it is restricted to certain labs and to be continued in the next issue.

The Northwest Experiment Station of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in cooperation with the University is maintained at the Mines Building on the campus. Supervising engineer is H. F. Yancey assisted by K. A. Johnson, R. E. Zane and Anthony Centenaro engaged in chemical work.

Research is confined to non-metallics since other stations study problems involving metals. Coal has engaged their attention for several years. Typical of work on other non-metallics is the study of clays; of late studies on the possible use of olivine in refractories and the investigation of diatomite as an insulating material and as a filter aid.

A small but essential laboratory is that maintained in the Federal Office Building by the Alcohol Tax Unit. Mr. Hugo Ringstrom, known to many A.C.S. members, is the able chemist who does work on alcohol and narcotics. His work involves control of the beer, wine, and rectified spirits industries to see that they are properly taxed. Quality and correct origin of wines must be checked. Special work for the Bureau of Narcotics involves qualitative and quantitative work on heroin, morphine and opium.

The Seattle Technological Laboratory of the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Montlake Boulevard, is another of the Federal research laboratories in the realm of the Puget Sound Section. This Laboratory was established in 1933 by the then U. S. Bureau of Fisheries for the purpose of aiding the fishing industry in bringing about more efficient and profitable utilization of fisheries products. Investigations deal with the improvement of existing methods and development of new methods of utilization and preservation of aquatic products. This involves studies on the manufacture, storage, and use of fish meal and fish oil; the development of vitamin products such as fish liver oils; and the most efficient methods of preparation, research on fish spoilage, investigations on the freezing, packaging, salting, smoking and canning of food fish and study and development of laboratory technique and analytical procedures for the conduct of such work. The Laboratory also carries on cooperative research with other state and federal research units. Laboratory facilities are available for chemical, bacteriological and chemical engineering research.

The permanent scientific staff of the Laboratory consists of the Technologist in Charge, one Assistant Technologist, and two Junior Technologists.

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During the past year the Fish and Wildlife Service constructed a new technological laboratory in Ketchikan, Alaska, to provide similar research facilities for the study of problems peculiar to the Alaska fisheries. The permanent Ketchikan laboratory staff will also be four in number.

R. W. Harrison is Technologist in Charge of the Seattle Laboratory and M. E. Stansby is in charge of the Ketchikan Laboratory.

(To be continued.)

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The Annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, June 16-21 this year. Papers on chemistry will be scheduled June 19, 20. Those planning to read papers should send to Carl Niemann, above address: Author's name, Title, Time Required, and Affiliation. Deadline for this material is April 5.