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SYMPOSIUM: TRENDS IN THE TEACHING OF GENERAL CHEMISTRY

FOREWORD

The teaching of general chemistry is now in a rapid state of flux. The worthwhileness of much of traditional general chemistry is being seriously questioned or is even being abandoned. Many experienced chemistry teachers are asking themselves how far they should go in adopting the newer concepts of general chemistry. Many teachers question a presentation of chemistry which largely excludes its historical development as a science. Then, too, there is evidence to show that alert young people with abilities for science demand something more challenging than traditional chemistry. This is borne out by the fact that enrollments in chemistry have sharply increased where college science courses have been modified to emphasize by actual use recent concepts and developments in chemistry.

The symposium, "Trends in the Teaching of General Chemistry," held at The University of Akron, 11 April 1958, was planned to highlight the important changes now occurring in the presentation of general chemistry. Our speakers were teachers with long experience in presenting chemistry to freshmen. They came from a variety of environments. Two came from small liberal arts colleges, two from large universities, one from a prominent institution for training scientists, and one came from industry after having had a successful university teaching career. There were many requests to have the proceedings published.

The success of the symposium can be attributed to the challenging ideas presented by the invited speakers and the large attendance from the colleges and universities throughout the state. The discussion following the presentation of the formal papers contributed further to the success of the symposium.

The officers and members of Section G, Chemistry, of The Ohio Academy of Science express their great appreciation to the speakers, to those who supported the symposium financially, the National Science Foundation and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa., through courtesy of Dr. W. S. Straub, Columbia Southern Chemical Corporation, Barberton, Ohio, and to The Ohio Journal of Science for publications of the proceedings.

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