

2. H. M. Spencer, *A History of the School of Chemistry at the University of Virginia, 1825-1943* Alumni Association, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 1983.

Dr. Ralph O. Allen Jr. is Professor of Chemistry at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22901, and is Chair of the Archeological Subdivision of HIST.

BOOK NOTES

American Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Wyndham Miles (Editor), American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1976. x + 544 pp. Cloth (Typeset) \$29.95.

Though this volume has been in print for several years, we wanted to explicitly bring it to the attention of our readers. The centennials and sesquicentennials of a large number of American chemistry departments are due to be celebrated in the next few years and will doubtlessly generate a spate of departmental histories. Persons writing these histories, as well as those interested in the history of the American chemical community in general, will find this volume to be an indispensable reference source. Containing short biographical sketches (with references) of 517 American chemists and chemical engineers, spanning nearly 300 years of American history, the book focuses on the "average" chemist rather than on the "super famous". This emphasis is its most valuable asset and would-be departmental historians will find it to be a useful first step in tracking down their early faculty. It is also a volume which should be found in the reference section of every science library, however small.

The good news is that Dr. Miles has recently begun work on a second volume of biographies, and we hope that many of our readers will contribute to this worthy project by responding to Dr. Miles' questionnaire in our *Questions and Queries* column.

A special discount coupon for members of the division wishing to order this volume can be found on the back cover.

Chemistry at UTK: A History of Chemistry at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville from 1794-1987, George K. Schweitzer, Department of Chemistry, UTK, 1988. 193 pp. Paper (Camera-Ready). \$15.00.

Histories of chemistry departments or, indeed, of science departments in general, don't fare well among book reviewers in the history of science literature. The standard complaints are that they lack a general theme, are overburdened by biographical sketches of the faculty and are of interest only to graduates

of the department concerned. All of these complaints are to some extent true, but the accompanying implication that the way to avoid these problems is to remove the detail of names and dates and to focus instead on some general social issue, such as graduate chemical education in America, misses the point because such a book would no longer be what it was intended to be - namely a specialized history of the department in question. The simple fact remains that the first and primary obligation of such a history is to be an accurate record of who was there, when they were there and what they did. As anyone who has worked on a departmental history can testify, the effort needed simply to track down a century of faculty, graduates and buildings - usually lost in overwhelming obscurity - can be exhausting and leave little time or energy for setting the result within the larger context of chemical education in America. At best all one can hope to do is to tabulate and summarize the local information as thoroughly as possible so that the historian in search of the "big picture" will find the result a useful data point.

In the book under review, the author has done his job better than most. In addition to tracking faculty, buildings and graduates, he has given a fair summary of changes in the curriculum, degree requirements, the evolution of fellowships, research assistantships and graduate education. The only missing item is an on-going description and evaluation of research and scholarly activity. The book is also well illustrated and properly referenced.

QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

* Dr. Paul R. Jones is in the process of assembling *A Guide to Published and Unpublished American Chemical Genealogies*. If you have done an unpublished genealogy of your department, please send a copy to Dr. Paul R. Jones, Department of Chemistry, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, Phone (603) 862-1550.

* Dr. James J. Bohning is in the process of assembling *A Guide to Published and Unpublished Histories of American Departments of Chemistry* and *A Directory of Persons Teaching History of Chemistry Courses*. He is also putting together the archives for the Division for the History of Chemistry. If you have items of interest relating to any of these projects, please contact him at the Department of Chemistry, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766, Phone (717) 824-4565, extension 4614. Relative to materials relating to the history of HIST, Dr. Bohning notes that he will take care of all sorting and organization, so now is the opportunity to unburden your file cabinets with a minimum investment of time and effort.

* Wyndham Miles and Robert Gould are in the process of putting together a second volume of *American Chemists and*