

ence *Teachers and Students* (London, 1872), pp. 7-8:

Drive out hydrogen by an alkali metal. First illustrate by throwing a piece of potassium on the surface of some water; then collect hydrogen displaced by sodium, carefully guarding against explosions (fig. 6). The "sodium spoon", and use of wire gauze, unless quite new, is objectionable; it is safer to use short pieces of leaden tube, 1/4 in. diam., closed at one end and filled with sodium, lying in the pneumatic trough beneath an inverted gas-jar full of water ...

I don't quite understand the contraption mentioned by Frankland and, in any case, the item illustrated looks more like a thin toasting fork. No doubt Frankland aired his objections to the teachers in the original lectures, but the editor (Chaloner) takes it for granted that any science teacher reader will understand.

William H. Brock, Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry

A warning about the "sodium spoon". I had one that I resurrected from a 1930's lab drawer (literally untouched in an old high school), and I finally used it. Granted, I used a rather larger chunk of sodium - about half the size of the basket - but what happened could have happened with any size sample. A student did it and, in a word, I came the closest in my 30 years as a teacher to a disastrous accident. The explosion shattered a liter beaker, but (now I know that God watches over drunks, babies and chemists) the student was unharmed. He was a good athlete and dove to the floor.

Joseph D. Ciparick, New York City

I just got the Fall 1990 issue of the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* and thought you might be interested in the following: 1. We have one of the sodium spoons in our old apparatus here at Harding. It measures 29.6 cm long, with a 2.5 cm diameter basket. 2. The sodium holder is also in the 1906 catalog for the Arthur H. Thomas Company. 3. The 1893 catalog for the Emil Greiner company does not have the sodium holder, though it does carry other "Hofmann" apparatus.

William D. Williams, Harding University

Hydrogen Bonding

Congratulations on an especially fine issue of the *Bulletin*. The article on hydrogen bonding caught my eye first because I had a lecture course from Worth Rodebush as a first-year graduate student at Illinois. He was a terrible lecturer at that time. The only thing I have retained is his directions for pronouncing French: "Begin, and anytime you feel like stopping, stop."

Paul R. Jones, University of New Hampshire

I recently received issue seven of the *Bulletin* ... I enjoy each issue quite a bit. The hydrogen bonding article will be most helpful since I try and give my high schoolers as much historical flavor as I can.

John Park, Diamond Bar High School

EVENTS OF INTEREST

* DaCapo Press has reissued a paperback reprint of Douglas McKie's classic biography of Antoine Lavoisier for \$14.95, and Dover Press has now released its cloth reprint of the Hoover translation of Agricola's *De re metallica* in a paperback edition for \$17.95.

* Dr. O. Bertrand Ramsay delivered the Fourth Annual Oesper Lecture on the History of Chemistry on 8 March 1991 at the University of Cincinnati. The subject of the lecture was "The Role of the Use of Molecular Models in the Historical Development of the Theory of Molecular Structure". The lecture was followed by the opening of a new museum display entitled "The Evolution of Molecular Models from Dalton to Drieding". Most of the artifacts in the display are part of a collection of historically significant models assembled by Dr. Ramsay and recently donated to the Oesper Collection. For further information, contact Dr. William B. Jensen, Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221, (513) 556-9308.

* The Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry plans to conduct the first of a series of annual workshops for high school chemistry teachers on the history of chemistry the week of 21-26 July 1991. Each workshop will focus on the history of one of the subjects normally taught in the high school chemistry course. Participants will hear lectures on the subject by guest lecturers, attempt to evaluate how the historical material might be adapted to classroom use, and participate in group projects directed at assembling a teaching resource packet. The topic of this year's workshop will be the history of the periodic table and atomic structure and the guest lecturer will be Dr. William B. Jensen of the University of Cincinnati. For further information contact the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, 3401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6228.

* The 1991 Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on 31 October - 3 November 1991. The meeting will run concurrently with the Society for the History of Technology's annual meeting and the joint HSS-SHOT conference on Critical Problems and Research Frontiers in History of Science and Technology. The number of regular HSS sessions will be reduced somewhat because sessions of interest to HSS members will be incorporated into the other meetings. Proposals for sessions and individual papers are due on 1 April 1991. For guidelines on submitting

proposals, please contact the HSS program chairs, Albert Moyer and Richard Hirsh, Department of History, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0117. For information on SHOT sessions, contact Deborah Fitzgerald, 1225 Orchard Drive, Ames, IA 50010.

* The Division is pleased to announce that its most recent book, *Electrochemistry, Past and Present*, based on the symposium organized by John T. Stock and Mary V. Orna in Toronto has, because of demand, gone into a second printing!

* Dr. William H. Brock, current Edelstein International Fellow in the History of Chemical Sciences and Technology, is preparing a new history of chemistry, entitled *At the Sign of the Hexagon*, as part of a new history of science series to be published by Fontana Paperbacks. Dr. Brock has spent the last six months at the Beckman Center in Philadelphia and, the situation in the Middle East allowing, will spend the period from 1 March - 30 June at the Edelstein Center in Jerusalem.

* Travel grants are available from the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry to enable interested individuals to visit Philadelphia to make use of the Othmer Library, the Edgar Fahs Smith Collection, and other associated facilities. The grants, which may be used for travel, subsistence, and copying costs, will not normally exceed \$500. Applications should include a vita, a one-paragraph statement on the research proposed, a budget, and the addresses and telephone numbers of two references. Deadlines are 1 February for grants covering the period April-June, 1 May for July - September, 1 August for October-December, and 1 November for January-March. Send applications to Lisa Kazanjian, Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, 3401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6228, (215) 898-4896.

* The Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry of the University of Cincinnati is looking for donations of old chemistry texts, photographs, prints, molecular models, and chemical apparatus to add to its collections. Interested parties should contact Dr. William B. Jensen, The Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, ML 172, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Atlanta 14-19 April 1991

* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio, Corporate Archives, Merck & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2000, Rahway, NJ 07065-0900, (908) 594-3981, FAX (908) 594-3977.

* *Michael Faraday - Chemist and Popular Lecturer* (Cospponsored by CHED). Contact Derek Davenport, Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, (317) 494-5465.

* *History of Synthetic Fibers*. Contact R. B. Seymour, Department of Polymer Science, University of Southern Missis-

issippi, Southern Station, Box 10076, Hattiesburg, MS, 39406, (601) 266-4868.

New York 25-30 August 1991

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 15 May 1991. Title of paper by 1 May 1991.

* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio (see address above).

* *History of Steroid Chemistry*. Contact L. Gortler, Department of Chemistry, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY 11210, (718) 780-5746, or J. L. Sturchio.

* *A Century of Chemistry in New York (Commemorating the Local Section Centennial)*. Contact J. Sharkey, Department of Chemistry, Pace University, Pace Plaza, New York, NY 10038, (212) 346-1710.

* *Chemistry and Crime III - Forensic Methods: Past, Present and Future*. Contact S. M. Gerber, Color Consultants, 70 Hillcrest Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836, (201) 356-4721; or R. Saferstein, New Jersey Forensic Laboratory, P.O. Box 7068, West Trenton, NJ 08825, (609) 882-2000, Ext. 2692.

* *Emil Fischer: One Hundred Years of Carbohydrate Chemistry* (Cospponsored by CARB).

San Francisco 5-10 April 1992

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 1 December 1991. Title of paper by 1 November 1991.

* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio (see address above).

* *Chemical Genealogy*. Contact P. R. Jones, Department of Chemistry, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, (603) 862-1550.

* *Chemistry in Science Fiction*. Contact J. H. Stocker, Department of Chemistry, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148, (504) 286-6852.

Geneva 21-22 April 1992 (Tentative)

* *100th Anniversary of the Geneva Conference*. Organized by J. G. Traynham, Department of Chemistry, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (504) 388-3459.

Washington DC 23-28 August 1992

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 15 April 1992. Title of paper by 1 April 1992.

* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio (see address above).