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Chemistry in the Iowa Academy of Science

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CHEMISTRY IN THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

L. CHAS. RAIFORD

As indicated in Table I, a preliminary meeting looking toward the organization of an academy of science in Iowa was held in Iowa City in 1875. According to the records three professors and four doctors were present at the meeting. Two of the professors were from Ames and one from Iowa City, while Ames, Iowa City, Davenport and Des Moines were represented by the four medical men. Five other persons, two of whom were in academic work and three in medical practice, stationed at Iowa City, Tabor, Clinton, Davenport and Dubuque, respectively, had previously expressed their approval of the proposed organization, and they, together with the ones previously named were designated as charter members. At the first regular meeting, which was held in Des Moines, articles of incorporation were approved, a proposed constitution was reported, five fellows were elected, and papers were read. At the first annual meeting held in June, 1876, a constitution was adopted, and a program presented.

During the period indicated it will be noted that ten meetings were held, and that the attempt was made to hold a semi-annual and an annual meeting each year. As might be expected at this stage, the program was not divided into sections, but all papers were given in a general meeting. By far the larger number of papers were devoted to subjects other than chemistry, but this is not surprising. In the early development of science in any locality there is always much greater opportunity to make observations on what may be called natural occurrences, than there is to devise

Table I. Meetings of the Iowa Academy of Sciences, 1875-80

Name of Meeting	Date	Place	Number of Reports	
			Chemistry	Other Subjects
Preliminary First	August 27, 1875	Iowa City (Univ.)	none	none
	January 25, 1876	Des Moines (Dr. A. G. Field's office)	none	3
First annual	June 23, 1876	Iowa City (Univ.)	1	9
Semi-annual	October 6, 1876	Ames (State Col.)	none	5
Second annual	May 3 and 4, 1877	Iowa City (Univ.)	1	13
Semi-annual	September 26, 1877	Ames (State Col.)	none	8
Third annual	May 23 and 24, 1878	Iowa City (Univ.)	none	9
Semi-annual	October 18, 1878	Grinnell (College)	none	6
Fourth annual	Oct. 9 and 10, 1879	Iowa City (Univ.)	none	15
Fifth annual	June 24 and 25, 1880	Iowa City (Univ.)	3	20

Table II. Chemistry in the Iowa Academy of Science

No. of meeting	Date	Place	Name of Section	Chairman of Section	No. of Reports in Chemistry
2	1887	Des Moines (Kirkwood Hotel)	Not designated	Not specified	2
3	1888	Des Moines (Y. M. C. A.)	" "	" "	none
4	1889	Des Moines (High School)	" "	" "	none
5	1890	Not given	" "	" "	none
6	1891	Not given	" "	" "	2
7	1892	Cedar Rapids (High School)	" "	" "	1
8	1893	Des Moines	" "	" "	3
9	1894	Des Moines (Y. M. C. A.)	" "	" "	4
10	1895	Des Moines (Horticultural room, Capitol)	" "	" "	2
11	1896	Des Moines (Com. room 1)	" "	" "	none
12	1897	Des Moines (Geol. Survey)	" "	" "	none
13	1898	Des Moines (Geol. Survey)	" "	" "	1
14	1899	Des Moines (Horticultural room, Capitol)	" "	" "	4
15	1900	Des Moines (Geol. Survey)	" "	" "	6
16	1901	Des Moines (Geol. Survey)	" "	" "	6
17	1902-3	Des Moines (Geol. Survey)	" "	" "	2
18	1904	Iowa City (University)	" "	" "	8
19	1905	Grinnell (College)	" "	" "	1
20	1906	Ames (State College)	" "	" "	2
21	1907	Des Moines (Drake University)	" "	" "	2
22	1908	Cedar Falls (Teachers College)	" "	" "	3
23	1909	Iowa City (University)	" "	" "	4
24	1910	Grinnell (College)	" "	" "	4
25	1911	Cedar Rapids (Coe College)	" "	" "	1

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Table III. Chemistry in the Iowa Academy of Science

No. of Meeting	Date	Place	Name of Section	Chairman of Section	No. of Reports in Chemistry
26	1912	Des Moines (Historical Building)	Chemistry	Hendrixson	3
27	1913	Ames (State College)	Not designated	Not specified	4
28	1914	Cedar Falls (Teachers College)	" "	" "	5
29	1915	Iowa City (University)	" "	" "	10
30	1916	Des Moines	" "	" "	12
31	1917	Grinnell (College)	Chemistry	" "	14
32	1918	Ames (State College)	Chemistry and agric. chem.	Rockwood and Coover (leaders)	26
33	1919	Cedar Falls (Teachers College)	Chemistry	Chairman of Ames section	1
34	1920	Iowa City (University)	Chemistry	Chairman of Iowa section	6
35	1921	Indianola (Simpson College)	Chemistry	Bond	3
36	1922	Des Moines (Drake University)	Chemistry	Bond	26
37	1923	Mt. Vernon (Cornell College)	Chemistry	Bartow	20
38	1924	Ames (State College)	Chemistry (papers given in 2 sections)	Hayes	51
39	1925	Cedar Falls (Teachers College)	Chemistry	Lewis	19
40	1926	Cedar Rapids (Coe College)	Organic and biological	Coleman	11
41	1927	Iowa City (University)	Org. and biol.	Gilman	6
42	1928	Grinnell (College)	Org. and biol.	Hixon	11
43	1929	Fairfield (Parsons College)	Org. and biol.	Gilman	11
44	1930	Ames (State College)	Org. and biol.	Culbertson	14
45	1931	Davenport (St. Ambrose College)	Org. and biol.	Raiford	10
46	1932	Cedar Falls (Teachers College)	Org. and biol.	Mattill	10
47	1933	Cedar Rapids (Coe College)	Org. and biol.	Sherman	13
48	1934	Des Moines (Drake University)	Org. and biol.	Nelson	21
49	1935	Grinnell (College)	Org. and biol.	Raiford	13
50	1936	Iowa City (University)	Org. and biol.	Edgar	15

and carry out experiments in chemistry and physics which require apparatus that may not be available. The records show that nearly all the papers presented before the academy during the period of 1875-80 were drawn from studies in Botany, Geology, Meteorology and Zoology. So much for a bit of history.

From 1880 to 1887 no records of meetings were found, and it is assumed that the organization ceased to function. On December 27, 1887 what is now known as the Iowa Academy of Science was organized in the parlors of the Kirkwood House in Des Moines. Seven professors were present. "The organization was determined upon as being the only practical method by which the working scientists of the state can be brought into close association." It is interesting to note a further statement regarding the purposes of the founders. They stated at this meeting: "The Academy wishes to be understood as fostering only original investigations, and only such as are capable of work of this sort are knowingly admitted to Fellowship." By this time, no doubt the medical men had organized county and state groups, and they do not appear to have shown any further activity in the meetings of the Academy.

The remaining history is briefly indicated in Tables II and III, where an attempt has been made to record the essential features that relate to chemistry. For more than half the period covered no chemistry section was designated. For the past twenty years, however, papers dealing with chemistry have been presented in a special section. Since 1925 the two sections of chemistry have been designated as Inorganic and Physical, and Organic and Biological, respectively.

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