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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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