

AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS



A.I.Ch.E MEETING - FEBRUARY 13, 1957

Chicago Section

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: Manganis Chateau  
7850 Odgen Avenue  
Lyons, Illinois

DINNER: \$3.50 ✓

SPEAKER: Dr. Ralph Landau

SUBJECT: Postwar Developments in the European Chemical Industry



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## FEBRUARY MEETING

Speaker: Dr. Ralph Landau

### POSTWAR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

At the end of the war, except for Great Britain, most Continental chemical companies were lagging badly behind American chemical industry in numerous fields; and even in Britain the heavy burden of the war had considerably delayed projects that were planned. In the subsequent ten years, European industry has made remarkable progress, although at uneven rates of development in the various countries. In view of these difficulties, it is all the more surprising to realize that in a number of instances European chemical companies have been pioneers in introducing various projects commercially, sometimes even more so than the American companies have been able to do. This points up one striking feature of the European chemical scene: Its organization, despite a semi-monopolistic pattern, does tend to encourage an unusual amount of risk taking on new processes and projects. It is well known that the research in Europe has been exceptionally good on basic new developments, but it is not so well known that the business structure of the European industry is highly conducive to new projects. This, of course, was exceptionally well known in Germany before the war, but similar characteristics can be found in other European companies. For example firsts in Europe have been such things as phenol from cumene on a commercial scale, low-pressure polyethylene, polyester fibers, and various others.

On the other hand, there is noticeable a greater number of developments by American chemical industry of a more fundamental character than used to be the case in the old days of German primacy. Certain other examples, both in the research and industrial stages, will be discussed briefly.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA · Dr. Ralph Landau

Dr. Ralph Landau received his B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and his Sc.D. in chemical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He held positions of process development engineer and head of chemicals department at M.W. Kellogg Co. and Kellex Corporation.

Presently, he is the Executive Vice President and a Director of Scientific Design Company, Inc. Among his duties has been the

responsibility for the European activities of Scientific Design, making some twenty trips to Europe.

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EDITORIAL

Doctor's Have It!  
Lawyers Have It!  
Engineers Want It!

Engineers want and should have professional status and recognition.

Progress towards such a status is being made slowly, but to receive proper recognition in our decade, each engineer must sincerely want and be willing to work for such recognition.

What must be accomplished before the engineer can rightfully accept professional status.

Through publicity in magazines and newspapers, he must point out the responsibilities he has to the public. The engineer must point out the numerous items the public enjoys due to the ability of the engineer. The engineer must impress upon industry the varied responsibilities he can assume and convince them of his ability to carry out these responsibilities. He must be accepted by industry as being as important to the profits as management.

Both the future engineering student and industry should be made aware of the accrediting of schools by the engineering societies. The importance of this accrediting must be made clear to all, thus assuring the quality of the graduate engineer's capabilities.

Of major importance in obtaining professional status is the quashing of the random use of the word "engineer". A person, in these times, is made an engineer by his employers say so, regardless of his training.

This wholesale slaughter of the word "engineer" is the greatest detriment to the engineer's public acceptance as a professional man. What then can be done to raise the status of the engineer?

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The most apparent and logical starting place is the engineering societies. They should make a strenuous effort, even to the hiring of a public relations firm in order to develop themselves in the public's eye. The purpose and functions of the societies should be emphasized.

The societies should:

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lly
- (1) Take it upon themselves to sponsor legislation and aid the governmental bodies in policing the engineering field, perhaps even to the extent of supporting registration and examination of all engineers and
  - (2) Support legislation making it illegal to practice engineering without such a license.

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This idea may seem extreme to some, but if engineers are to obtain professional status and recognition equivalent to other professions, extreme measures must be taken.

GEORGE BAILIE

JANUARY MEETING

MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE JANUARY MEETING TO HEAR DR.

LeRoy F. STUTZMAN SPEAK ON COMPUTERS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING.

THE SOCIAL HOUR WAS SPONSORED BY THE DURIRON CO., INC.

## INSTRUMENT AND CONTROL ENGINEERING COURSES AT NAVY PIER

Chicago Section, Instrument Society of America, and University of Illinois are co-sponsoring two useful courses for the fourth time in two years, as described below. Many of you may want to take advantage of them.

1. Instrument Operating Principles and Structure: Eleven three-hour sessions, 7-10 pm every Wednesday starting February 6th in Room 127, Navy Pier. Covers how the many types of instrument elements work, the physical principles behind them and other special features. Text: "Instruments for Measurement and Control", W. G. Holzbock, \$10.

2. Instrument Application in Control Systems: Eleven three-hour sessions, 7-10 pm starting Tuesday, February 19th in Room 127, Navy Pier, and succeeding Tuesdays and Thursdays as follows: February 19, 21, 26, 28, March 12, 14, 19, 21, April 2, 4, 9. Covers terminology, diagrammatic methods, and other techniques of control system planning, with emphasis on Frequency Response Analysis for processes, instruments, and control systems.

Text: "Introduction to Process Control System Design", A. J. Young, \$6.

Courses are presented from a general viewpoint for the process engineer, instrument engineer or technician, or others whose work fringes on these fields. Courses may be taken simultaneously or in succession, and provide excellent orientation for further specialized study in process analysis, computers, analysis instrumentation, data reduction, etc.

Advance registration and pre-ordering of texts can be made by phone or card to:  
Mr. T. H. Dekker, Illini-Center, LaSalle Hotel, Chicago 2, Ill. RA 6-7750. Tuition fee of \$15, and text cost are payable upon registration at the first session. Advance registrants will be given preference.

FEBRUARY 2

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FEBRUARY 22, 1957 ... MEETING OF THE CHICAGO SECTION ACS

PLACE: Furniture Club of America, 666 North Lake Shore Drive

SPEAKER: Henry B. Hass, Sugar Research Foundation

SUBJECT: "SUCRO CHEMISTRY" - Julius Stieglitz Memorial Lecture

GROUP MEETINGS: Call Chicago office of ACS for information.

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SUBJECT: Neighborhood Meeting of the Chicago Section ACS

DATE: Thursday, February 28, 1957.

PLACE: G. D. SEARLE & CO., SKOKIE, ILLINOIS

SPEAKER: Eugene Lieber, DePaul University

SUBJECT: "AZOLE TRANSFORMATIONS"

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P E R S O N A L   N E W S

Dr. W. A. Rodger of the Argonne National Laboratory was recently elected to the executive committee of the Nuclear Engineering Division of the A. I. Ch. E.

I. W. Scroggin of Cities Service Oil Company has been transferred from New York to the company's East Chicago refinery where he will be Assistant Plant manager in charge of Technical Services. This is a new position recently created by the company.

Lawrence J. Gorry has been transferred by the Cities Service Research and Development Company from East Chicago to a new research center in Cranbury, New Jersey.

Ralph Robinson of Abbott Laboratories and Mrs. Robinson are the proud parents of a son, Aron David, born December 25, 1956.

continued

E. T. HARDING  
CORN PRODUCTS REFINING CO.  
201 North Wells  
Chicago 6, Illinois

FEB 6 1957



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PERSONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Maurice Dornburg of Standard Oil was married to Miss Helen Kolten of East Chicago, Indiana on December 3, 1956.

R. O. Carlson returned to the Engineering Division of Standard Oil following service with the U.S. Army.

A paper on "A Rigorous Graphical Method for Calculating Multicomponent Distillations" was presented at the annual A.I.Ch.E. Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts by R. J. Hengstebeck of the Standard Oil Research Department.

E. H. Vause of Standard Oil and Mrs. Vause welcomed the arrival of a boy, Kurt, born November 29, 1956.

Henry Oliver of Standard Oil was appointed Group Leader in the Refinery Economic Division of Technical Service.

William Lohff formerly in the Engineering Division of Standard Oil returned recently from military service and transferred to the company's Chicago Office Purchasing Department.

P. K. Carrell and Leo Idaszak of the Research and Development Dept. of Corn Products left recently for Europe on temporary assignment for the company.



(Please Fill in this Card and Mail. No Stamp Necessary)

I plan to attend the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting at

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations for me for this meeting.

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