

THE CANBERRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Annual Report, 1959

Teaching Staff

During the greater part of the year the teaching staff consisted of the professor assisted by a part-time demonstrator, Mr M. Ward. Mr L.L. Hawes, lecturer in inorganic and analytical chemistry, commenced duty in October and Dr W.D. Crow was appointed as senior lecturer in organic chemistry from January 1st 1960.

Courses

The course in Chemistry Part I was the only one provided. The efficiency of the teaching was impaired by the necessity for strict adherence to the Melbourne syllabus, which assumes that students have already reached the Victorian matriculation standard in chemistry. A standardised test which was given to Canberra and Melbourne classes in their first week at the University, showed that there was a real difference in the standards at commencement. Thirty per cent of Melbourne candidates secured a higher rating than the best Canberra student, while forty per cent of Canberra students had a score less than 50, compared to less than twenty per cent of Melbourne candidates with such scores. It was not surprising therefore that only fifty per cent of the Canberra candidates were able to reach the necessary standard at the end of the year. Of seven part-time students, two passed, four failed, and one withdrew during the year. These students attended the same Chemistry classes as the full-time students and usually took Pure Mathematics as an additional subject.

Examinations and Enrolments

Course	Enrolments	Sat for Examination	Passed (with Honours)
Chemistry Part I	26	22	11(3)

Publications and Conferences

Two papers were published during the year, one of which was based on research performed at the University of Melbourne.

HAMBLY, A.N. "The Zero-point Motion of Simple Molecules".
Reviews of Pure and Applied Chemistry, 9 : 105-116,
(1959).

HAMBLY, A.N. (with ALLPRESS J.G., (Univ. of Melb.), "The Infra-red Spectra of Uranyl Compounds. I. Uranyl Nitrates".
Australian Journal of Chemistry, 12 : 569-574, (1959).

Professor Hambly attended the second Australian Spectroscopy Conference which was held in Melbourne in June, and was a co-author of two papers which were presented -
with R.H. Laby "The Criteria for Hydrogen Bond Formation"
with J.G. Allpress "The Use of Infra-red Spectra in the Study of Complex Inorganic Reactions".

2.

Extramural Activities

During the year a considerable amount of work was done for the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, as convener of a committee setting up a scheme for assessing the qualifications of, and examinations of, applicants from foreign countries for associateship of the Institute.

An invitation to join the Advisory Committee on Candidates for grants from the United States Educational Foundation was accepted. A thesis, for a higher degree of the University of Melbourne, and another for the University of New South Wales, were examined as well as the papers of the candidates for the Rennie Medal of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

Future Developments

Mr R. MacDonald, of the firm of Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb of Melbourne, acting under instructions from the National Capital Development Commission has prepared preliminary draft plans and elevations for a Chemistry School for the College. This building is designed to accommodate the initial development of Biochemistry and Agricultural Chemistry as well as the usual instruction in Analytical, Inorganic, Organic and Physical Chemistry.

In 1960 courses in Chemistry Parts I and II will be presented and preparations will be made for commencement of instruction in Chemistry Part III in 1961.

In 1960 new staff members will have to be accommodated in the teaching laboratories until the Physics Department is transferred to its new building. More serious congestion is to be expected if a substantial portion of the new Chemistry School is not available at the beginning of 1961.

A.N. Hambly.

5th January, 1960.