

# Fifty Golden Years

## A HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE

1912—1962

Turning the pages of history at the time of Union clearly indicates sincere desires of unification in all walks of life, and when difficulties of the past had been submerged on the national front, South Africans turned their attentions to work for the future. That future is now our heritage; that future we as an *Institute* are now celebrating as the Golden Jubilee; it is now the past.

Ambition, aspiration, courage and a belief in the future of the newly constituted Union of South Africa, were the qualities and hopes that decided chemists to consider the formation of an association, a need "to protect their professional interests".

Those interests could best be served by a corporate voice, thus in November 1911, Mr. Jas. Gray directed a circular letter to practically all chemists in the Union. The spontaneous response led to a public meeting in Johannesburg on January 26, 1912, and there it was unanimously resolved to form an association. A steering committee comprising Mr. Andrew F. Crosse, Dr. J. Moir, Dr. J. McCrae, Professor G. H. Stanley, Mr. F. W. Watson and Mr. A. Whitby was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. Mr. Jas. Gray acted as Honorary Secretary.

These seven men, on instruction from the inaugural meeting, co-opted a further 17 to consider the draft constitution and 22 accepted. These then formed the nucleus of the South African Association of Analytical Chemists. On formation, a further circular letter and membership application forms were directed to all known chemists, and by the end of the first 11 months the strength had risen to 34.

### 1912—1913

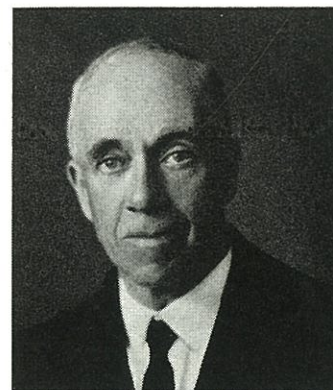
It is obvious from the record of activities of the first Council the founders of the *Association* intended to be a force in the professional chemical field; however, early on it had to be admitted that even in that first blush of enthusiasm, the *Association* could not claim to be representative of chemists. This was particularly the case relating to presentation of chemists' claims before the Union Government and Public Bodies.

The *Association* was most critical of an arrangement between a Natal newspaper and a local assayer to conduct analyses at a fee of half-a-crown per sample! The Council was likewise critical of the inadequate salaries paid by the Government to chemical assistants. During the year, several breaches of ethical practice were considered in the light of the newly-adopted Constitution. The *Association* was in action, to be of service to its members and to the Union of South Africa.

It is more than interesting to record that in the first year an approach was made from Rhodesia for an amalgamation of chemical professional interests, but after fifty years this is still just a dream.

### FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. John McCrae, Ph.D., F.I.C., emphasized in the first Presidential Address to the *Association* the need for this new organization, which had been manifest by the record of service and achievement. He drew particular attention to the fact that the older European countries were little ahead of the Union in legislation



Dr. John McCrae

relating to the employment and responsibilities of chemists. "Let us aid and assist by asserting ourselves, by trying to educate our Government, our Public Bodies, and our general public. The aims and objects of our *Association* can be achieved by insisting, in season and out of season, that for the honest practice of our profession an adequate training is essential, and such adequate training should be supported by some recognized qualification."

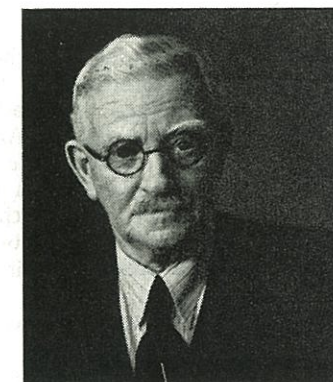
### 1913—1914

In the second year it was considered desirable, particularly to stimulate the growth of the *Association*, to change the Constitution to admit Mine Assayers. Contrary to the belief of some that this would lower the status of the *Association*, experience has shown that Council's vigilance has maintained and elevated that status, and growth ensued.

A delegation to the Minister of Mines deplored the action of inviting tenders for professional services to conduct analyses and assays on prospector samples. This and similar problems were actively pursued during the year, and a considerable degree of success was achieved.

### SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor G. H. Stanley took as his theme the need for membership of the *Association*; he emphasized the service this new organization had already been to the Profession in various approaches to the Government. Reasons for not joining were mostly, "I do not see that it will do me any good", and the President always countered by maintaining that this was both feeble and foolish! The President, according to the records, was the first to use the designation industrial chemist, so that very early in its history, the *Association* appreciated the potential of "the other side". He it was who first drew attention to to-day's laboratory technicians and their functions in industry, thus Council took the initial move to permit Associate Membership.



Professor G. H. Stanley

1914—1915

### THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The clouds of war cast their shadow over South Africa and members were not slow to enlist, but even in the country before secondary industry was a major factor in the national economy, the Government realized the vital roles that chemists played, and consequently many of the Profession were placed on essential services.

Those who thus remained behind turned their attentions to the need for a certificate of competency in assaying, since the change in the Constitution in the previous year had not stimulated the expected growth.

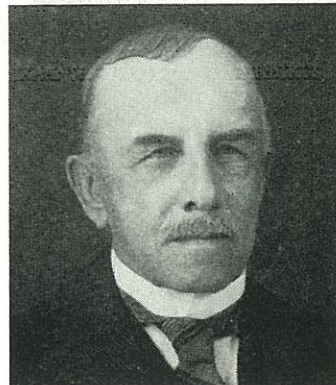
Also at this stage it was considered desirable to establish an Appointments Register, and as the *Association* was not fully representative of the Profession, the facility of the Register was extended to non-members.

Could it ever be conceived that the South African Engineering Corps invited applications for the Forces from "Men of the following trades—analysts, blacksmiths, bricklayers, etc." ? Representations were successful when the *Association* impressed on the authorities that exception was not taken on social grounds. Because of the pressure of wartime, many anomalous situations arose, and by virtue of the *Association's* vigilance, most of these conditions were settled, and removed the precedents that otherwise having been ignored would have become accepted and established as normal practice.

### THIRD PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Charles F. Juritz's elevation to the office of President was the first move within the *Association* towards becoming a truly national body, for the third President resided in Cape Town.

The President in his address contended that the Allies' difficulties in the conduct of the War were primarily the neglect of Chemistry by Great Britain during the previous score years. He had three years previously stressed in his Presidential Address to the Cape Chemical Society the unfavourable contrast between the status of chemical research in Great Britain and Germany. "It is absolutely painful that under the stress of circumstances our weakness should have laid bare to all the nations, a weakness for which there can be found no justification in the plea that no alarm had been raised, or that the supply of chemical talent in this country was inadequate." Here Dr. Juritz had quoted from Dr. W. H. Perkin—"The manufacture of organic colouring matters during the critical years 1870-1880 was, owing to the neglect of organic chemistry by our universities, placed in a practically impossible position".



Dr. Charles F. Juritz

1915—1916

By this time South Africa began to feel the pinch of war, and the Government established the Munitions and Industries Committee. Dr. James Moir was elected to the executive of this committee, bringing the *Association* into the heart of national development.

This committee was sufficiently impressed by the standing of the *Association* that Council was requested to consider a report "On the Sources and Production of Glycerine", and their reply proved of considerable value. A register of chemists in the Union was also compiled in collaboration with the Minister of Defence.

It is of interest to note that, although monthly meetings of the *Association* had been held in Johannesburg for some time, the first essentially industrial paper, "The Industrial Fixation of Nitrogen", was submitted by Mr. H. Schwartz in February 1916, thus introducing a new type of subject. Up to this date, all previous papers had been analytical and theoretical.

The Council took part in a meeting under the auspices of the Council of all Scientific and Technical Societies for the purpose of promoting and organizing scientific research, especially with a view to its application to trade and industry in South Africa.

In spite of all this activity, it is with regret to note the inclusion in the Annual Report from Council to the effect that "as in all the past years, our dealings with the Government during the year have yielded almost negative results".

### FOURTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. James Moir struck the note of his niche in the Profession, that of teacher, and in a monument of philosophy stated a sound case for recognition of the science, but he was not blinded by the vested interests that would oppose any such move. Here was courage in the criticisms levelled against the Government of the day and his final observation has remained true to this day—"We have had our time of mortal peril, and the retention of unscientific government spells disaster, if not now, in the next generation".

1916—1917

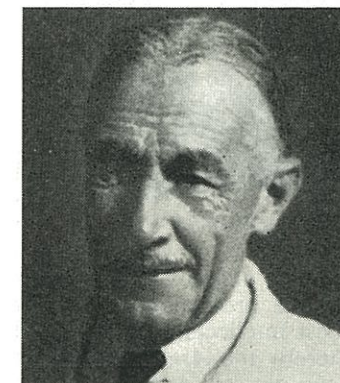
The Rand in this Golden Year has displaced the Pound; there are suggestions favouring the Metric System, yet in 1916 both these considerations, together with the concept of "daylight saving", were before Council.

Misuse of the term chemist became a concern of Council, and considerable time and energy was devoted during the year to achieving the ideal of a Charter by way of a Private Bill, but with all the enthusiasm and a membership of 70, the estimated requirement of £1,000 was a long way off, and the result on past showings, a gamble.

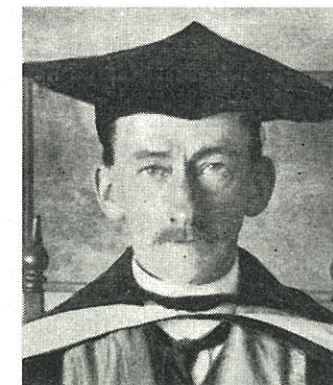
What might well be considered the first attempt at journalism was the decision to circulate 500 copies of the Proceedings of the *Association*, to "serve as a timely reminder of the existence and aims of the *Association*". Advertisements in the Proceedings helped to offset the cost.

The *Association* was in the forefront of the movement to establish a "University on the Rand". Dr. McCrae was the appointee, and Johannesburg saw the start of science, arts and medical courses.

A proposal to form an Australian Chemical Society with aims similar to the *Association's* was welcomed by Council.



Mr. James S. Jamieson



Dr. James Moir

### FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. James Sprunt Jamieson, F.I.C., was emphatic on the need for chemists to work together, and more important not to be aloof to the public. According to the record, he it was who first mentioned the chemical engineers and their contribution to the country in the titanic struggle of those times.

A degree of trade-unionism was advocated to enhance status and prevent unscrupulous exploitation, and the thought arose that such procedure might be the best approach for recognition by authorities.

However, a milestone had been reached, and the President provided a breathtaking survey of South African chemical industry, a theme which was to be adopted by future Presidents.

There is no doubt of the concern of the *Association* for a stable Profession, for a sub-committee of Council published a most encompassing memorandum on "The duties and responsibilities of government analysts". This report as history is still an object lesson for to-day.

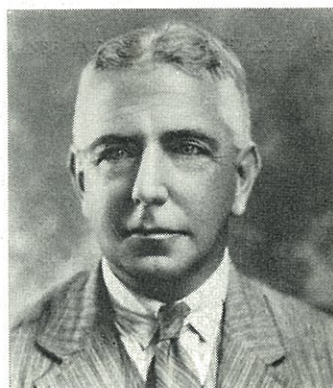
1917—1918

"Practical proficiency in general analytical work is the main qualification required, and a high standard of theoretical knowledge is not essential."—Extract from a Government advertisement for a chemical assistant! No wonder the rafters in the Council Chamber creaked.

The first Journal of the *Association* was published in December 1917, which had become necessary to perpetuate the monthly proceedings and to satisfy members resident in the far away places; this was a half-yearly publication of 20 pages.

#### SIXTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Robert Beckett Denison, D.Sc., Ph.D., came from Maritzburg to deliver his address, which stressed the inter-relation of the university and industry. He went further to state that economics and chemistry were largely responsible for the War then in progress. He claimed that Germany could not prosecute the War until the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen had been industrially achieved. It was clear that South Africa was poised for a chemical industrial revolution, and the President emphasized the importance of by-products, particularly those based on coal. He then continued to review the process of university education and surveyed the prospects for graduates of the day, but he returned to the conclusion that a stable chemical industry was the only assurance to improvement of the university systems, as the latter's products could be absorbed only by industry in sufficient numbers to stimulate the growth of the universities.



Dr. Robert B. Denison

1918—1919

The Council resolved that for the progress of the technical societies a joint home would have to be provided, and a levy was considered to be paid towards this object.

The *Association* continued to distribute copies of the Proceedings and the Journal appeared at half-yearly intervals. The publication was of slightly different nature in those days as it carried a report from Council.

Strenuous endeavours in the transition period from war to peace were made to achieve a realization in the Government and the private sector of the value of the chemist and the need for realistic emoluments.

#### SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor J. A. Wilkinson believed that a public realization of the true status of the chemist would unfold, due to an appreciation that it was the unparalleled chemical drive that finally led the Allies to victory. He counselled that, therefore, the time was opportune to raise the profession of the Chemist to its proper place among the learned professions to attract a larger proportion of the best intellects, and indicated the ways and the means whereby the *Association* might well profit in status. His views are still very largely the basis of to-day's endeavours.



Professor J. A. Wilkinson

1919—1920

The Associated Societies now moved a stage nearer to their ideal of having a joint home and a closer understanding. Four thousand pounds had been raised and a building had been purchased.

Council saw fit to record its disappointment in the poor attendances at monthly meetings in spite of the quality and scope of the papers.

In this year the system of publication exchanges was introduced, and this has proved a most important liaison throughout the years with other technical bodies. Dr. McCrae became the *Association's* representative on the Seymour Library Committee.

#### EIGHTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. John McCrae became the first of three Presidents to have held this high office twice. Because of the President's professional occupation it was natural that he should review his own field of food and drugs. He mentioned the "fashionable fad" of establishing standards and cautioned against too many, particularly in the production of foods. He was emphatic that the *Association* must be represented on any board established to administer the Act.



Dr. John McCrae

1920—1921

The annual general meeting was held in the new home of the Associated Societies for the first time, and the *Association* took great pride in this fact as it had contributed to the central fund. The South African School of Mines and Technology had been the headquarters of the *Association* since its inception, but this recent move was a great stride forward.

These new premises will be remembered by many at 100 Fox Street, Johannesburg, and a club atmosphere with catering and bar facilities was instituted.

Whereas the Council had given considerable attention to the salaries of chemists in Government service, attention was now focussed on salaries in the private sector. However, in this latter instance a basic salary of £750 per annum was adopted, but difficulty arose in assessing and recommending progressive increments. It was finally compromised by suggesting the discretion of the employer should be the arbiter.

A sub-committee operated during the year to draft the Private Bill, and it is interesting to note that Southern Rhodesia began a display of interest on account of possible legislation for compulsory registration of chemists. It was on account of this work that it became obvious that the name of the *Association* did not properly reflect the varied interests of the members, and a proposal to change that name to "The South African Chemical Institute" was made.

At a Special General Meeting held on June 28, 1921, by a vote of 48 against two, the South African Association of Analytical Chemists changed its name to the "South African Chemical Institute".

#### NINTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Joseph Lewis, M.A., D.Sc., followed the pattern of previous addresses by emphasizing the benefit of association with the organization, and compared salaries in this country with those in the United States of America.

He then went on to consider problems of toxicology in South Africa. He was particularly concerned with poisons used by the Bantu and Bushmen, arrow poisons and love potions. His concluding remarks were criticisms of those whose responsibility it was to forward samples in criminal investigations. It was obvious that technically trained persons were often careless in the extreme in the use, or misuse, of preservatives.

## 1921—1922

This was a year of martial law and revolt, a year of major change. The South African Chemical Institute had been formed, the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies had moved to the Scientific and Technical Club at 100 Fox Street, Johannesburg.

The *Institute* was called on to help finance the "Club" and a form of membership assessment or levy had to be introduced, and this has remained in force to this day.

It is a proud record that members of the Constituent Societies manned the Johannesburg power station during the strike and revolt, thus maintaining this strategic service.

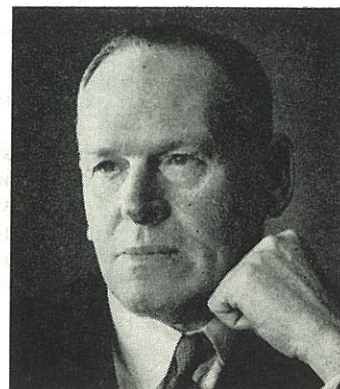
Overtures were made to the Cape Chemical Society for some kind of fusion with the object of strengthening the position of chemistry in the Union. This was not achieved.

### TENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor G. H. Stanley delivered his second Presidential Address on the scope and future of South African Chemical Industry, which is a monument of foresight and idealism, for it must be remembered that 1922 was a year of depression.

He stressed the need for more chemists in spite of the then economic recess, and claimed that the Allies were already showing a short memory and slipping back to the 1900 attitude to the Profession and the Industry. He then gave a picture of chemical industrial development to date:

- 1842—Petersons Limited established.
- 1846—Mossop's tannery.
- 1850—Sugar produced in Natal.
- 1852—Copper smelted in Namaqualand.
- 1868—J. H. Hill produced confectionery.
- 1889—Ohlsson's Cape Brewery.
- 1890—Cyanide Process introduced.
- 1903—Cape Explosives Work, collodion cotton.
- 1906—Carbon Dioxide from magnesite.



James Gray, Esq.

## 1922—1923

The Council protested strongly against the proposed revision of the Foods, Drugs and Disinfectants Bill as it affected the Profession and success was achieved; likewise the Council impressed on the Government the need of Assayers to the Mint holding the Union Certificate of Competency.

### ELEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

James Gray, Esq., M.P.C., F.R.I.C., is accepted as the founder of the *Institute*. He served as Secretary from 1912—1922 and relinquished this position to assume the Presidency, a fitting tribute to the man who had laboured unstintingly for the *Institute* and the Profession.

James Gray was a man dedicated to public service; he served in the Provincial Council and later rose to be the First Citizen of Johannesburg, when he served as the "Royal Mayor" in 1947. It was not unnatural that his Presidential Address would emphasize service. He was particularly anxious that the public should be educated to understand and appreciate the Profession. He was telling when he accused the State of allowing the chemist to sink again to a position of humility. "To my mind the only answer is publicity, we must shake off our apathy." He condemned the fact that scientists scorned activity in politics, and he pleaded for them a place in business. He visualized with the growing importance of secondary industry the need for technical men in the judiciary.

The President devoted much of his address to ways and means the Government should use to stimulate local industries, and the *Institute* should ever be willing to serve. "In thus working for a great industrial South Africa we are in every way advancing the ideals for which we were formed."

## 1923—1924

On Tuesday, February 26, 1924, by Special General Meeting, it was resolved to permit Student Membership, and membership of those properly qualified who were located beyond the borders of the Union.

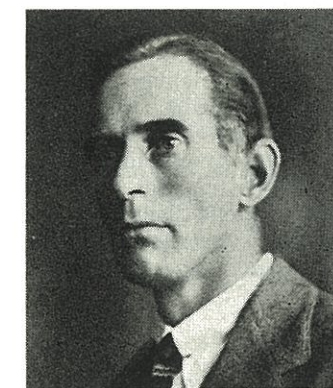
Radio broadcasting came to South Africa through the issue of a licence by the Government to the Associated Societies, and it is an interesting thought that chemists, Professor J. A. Wilkinson and Mr. Jas. Gray, should have played a part in the establishment and early operation of what is to-day an extensive national network.

In view of the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Bill coming before Parliament, strong representations were made to the Government at an interview with the Hon. Patrick Duncan, Minister of Interior, but, in spite of his personal sympathy, the move received no support, and the *Institute* was forced again to rely on a Private Bill, the cost of which was now progressively rising.

The Council deprecated the formation of a section of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain at the Cape, particularly as this was done without reference to members of this organization elsewhere in South Africa and on account of obvious duplications.

### TWELFTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Henry H. Green, D.Sc., was an authority in the biochemical field, and as a specialist at Onderstepoort Laboratories, proved the elegant position of chemistry and the chemist in veterinary work. It is strange in the light of modern contributions to this Organization that it should ever have been necessary to have had to prove the necessity for chemistry in that field. His work was involved in an appreciation of phosphorus deficiencies and the chain of events that eventually explained the cattle disease Lamsiekte, a shining example of the urgent need for co-operation between veterinarian and chemist.



Dr. Henry H. Green

## 1924—1925

The *Institute* was responsible for fortnightly broadcasts from "J.B." on aspects of chemistry, and from various records it is apparent that considerable interest was evoked.

Attempting to progress with the concept of recognition, it was decided to petition His Majesty the King for a Royal Charter, but there was considerable division, the opposition being in favour of a trades union which would be registered, and thus automatically have Government recognition.

An attempt was made to produce a monthly news sheet, but great difficulty was experienced in obtaining material for publication. However, the Journal was published twice during the year and, as was past practice, the Proceedings were again circulated, the number being 600 copies.

The Council attempted to stimulate interest amongst members through an essay competition. Mr. W. B.

Gray donated the prize of five pounds, the subject being "Advancement of the Status of the Chemist", but as only one entry was received, the donation was devoted to the *Institute's* funds.

### THIRTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. James Moir, in presenting his second Presidential Address, adopted an entirely new approach and delivered an essentially technical lecture.

He pleaded for a realistic recording of analytical results, and supported this view by indicating a large number of decimal points in an assay meant nothing unless the sampling was in direct relation.

The President then turned to his speciality, the chemical origin of colour, and stated his theory which postulated an electron dislodgement under the action of light.

## 1925—1926

The Seymour Memorial Library, which had been housed in the School of Mines Building, Johannesburg, remained under sufferance when the University moved to Milner Park and the Railways took occupation. The *Institute* was foremost in the move to get the Johannesburg Town Council to house it in a special room of the Public Library, then located in Kerk Street, next to the Law Courts.

On the resolution of the last Annual Meeting, the Council was to petition for a Royal Charter, but, in accordance with necessary procedure, a letter was addressed to His Excellency the Governor-General. He stated he could not receive the petition and advocated an approach to the Union Government, failing which, the only course available would be a Private Bill.

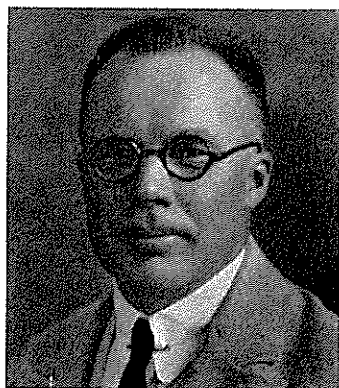
The *Institute* nominated Dr. James Moir and Major C. C. Frye to represent them on the South African Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

The first woman to deliver a paper to the *Institute* was Miss M. G. Brandwijk, "Note on a South African Plant called *Anemone Transvaalensis Szysz*". Since married, Dr. Breyer-Brandwijk has established herself in this field and has recently published a book, "The Medicinal and Poisonous Plants of Southern and Eastern Africa", a treatise concerned with the chemical constituents of the plants discussed.

## FOURTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

H. H. Dodds, Esq., M.Sc., A.I.C., eulogized the importance of agriculture in a country predominantly based on mining and secondary industry, and showed that agriculture was already ahead on productive valuations.

He selected, however, the Sugar Industry for special analyses, and traced its growth and importance in Natal.



H. H. Dodds, Esq.

After noting the local industrial procedure, he was at pains to emphasize the personal and technical attributes of the Sugar Chemist, and left no doubt that human and linguistic qualities were paramount. Mr. Dodds then linked the Sugar Industry with other industrial consumers, indicating that both product and waste product would be of vital import to South Africa's future.

## 1926—1927

The *Institute* experimented with a meeting held at the South African Institute of Medical Research, and this innovation, the forerunner of many since, achieved the greatest response to that date, an attendance of 60.

Dr. J. McCrae was elevated to the Presidency of the Associated Societies, with Mr. Jas. Gray as Vice-President.

## THE NATAL BRANCH

The first move towards being a truly national body was made when the Natal Section came into being, due largely to Mr. Jas. Gray and Mr. A. Harding Kloot. Mr. W. V. Blewett was elected first Chairman of the Branch.

During the year the *Institute*, at the instigation of the Department of Labour, published a memorandum on the "Profession of Chemistry in the Union of South Africa". This covered the scope of employment, training required, facilities for qualification in the Union and remuneration.

## FIFTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. Buchanan Gray was to have been President for this year. He was described as "one of our technical captains of industry", and it was a distinct loss when after election he was called to England. Thus it was that Professor J. A. Wilkinson became President for a second term of office.

Professor Wilkinson spoke on the relationships and services of our profession to the community. After having brought the obligations and responsibilities of the chemist into true perspective, he made a telling case for the recognition of the Profession. He cited the Garvan case in the United States of America; as alien property custodian, Mr. Garvan from his investigations, proved conclusively that recent wars "depended almost entirely on the work of the chemist, which, being translated, means that a nation neglectful of its progress is providing the most potent weapon for its own destruction by its enemies; the next war will begin where the last left off. Chemistry will play the major, if not the whole, part when that next time comes."

## 1927—1928

At the XVI Annual General Meeting, Dr. Jas. Moir was responsible for the votes of thanks, and he particularly singled Mr. Jas. Gray for mention. Mr. Gray had attended every meeting of the *Institute* since its inception, an unbroken sequence of 150 meetings. It was fitting, therefore, that Mr. Gray should have been elected President of the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies.

General Kemp as Minister of Agriculture was unable to help the delegation of the *Institute* towards a Government move to register chemists, and the *Institute* was advised to proceed with a Private Bill, but costs had by now made this prohibitive.

## SIXTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. B. de C. Marchand, D.Sc., was at pains to bring a proper perspective of analytical work before the Profession and the lay public. "The analyst should avoid doing more work on a sample that is necessary to pronounce an opinion on the question raised," and on the other hand the problem was to impress that the limitations of the chemist were not a limitation of chemistry. Part of an analytical report was its interpretation, and as the layman cannot decipher the intrinsic value, it is here that the trust in the chemist is required, and his views and responsibilities the most exacting.



Dr. B. de C. Marchand

## 1928—1929

A departure from tradition was made by holding the XVII Annual General Meeting of the *Institute* in Durban. This it would appear was in appreciation of the Natal Section's work, the first year of which was marked by a very full lecture programme and plant visits.

The death of James Moir was a severe loss to the *Institute*, and due to his vast contributions to the Profession and the *Institute*, the James Moir Memorial Fund was inaugurated to perpetuate his memory.

At a Special General Meeting on May 28, 1929, it was resolved that the grade of Honorary Member would be introduced, and that entry to the various grades would also be possible by submission to the *Institute's* examination. Likewise, an account of the Natal Section's emergence, rules were introduced to regulate local sections.

## SEVENTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Major C. C. Frye, O.B.E., F.I.C., represented professional and industrial interests throughout the Union, and was well qualified to draw attention to the national and professional need of labouring together. He called for truth and understanding in all our ambitions. Towards an improvement in national well-being, better water facilities, sewage disposal procedures and control of coastal effluent discharges, the President demanded that professional chemists play a bigger part in public affairs and politics.

The President made a plea for an international language, which he claimed would do more than anything else to remove the probability of war. He foresaw the day when the scientist would be the industrial executive, and towards this objective he advocated that learning should be practical and based on integrity, truth and vision.



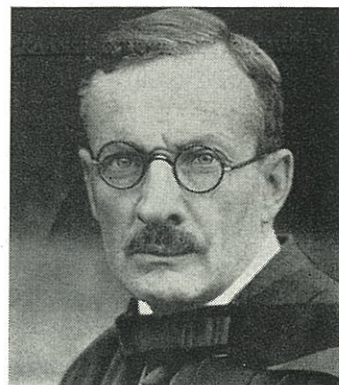
Major C. C. Frye, O.B.E.

With the inauguration of the *Institute's* examination for membership, Council obtained the co-operation of the Witwatersrand Technical College to provide progressive classes in chemistry, physics and mathematics.

A special reference must be made to the meeting held at Pretoria in March, when an afternoon visit was made to the Government Laboratories, and during the evening papers were presented by Pretoria members of the *Institute*. This was to stimulate the formation of a Pretoria Section.

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

With the introduction of Honorary Membership of the *Institute*, Mr. Jas. Gray was elevated to this grade in appreciation of his service and devotion to the Profession.

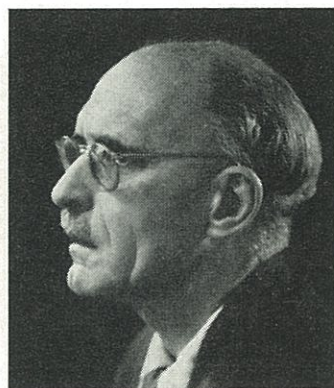


Professor Max Rindl

#### EIGHTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor Max Rindl, D.Ing., was concerned with the need for the organization of plant poison research on a national basis. He was worried that the work was not systematic when undertaken by the individual, it was likewise incomplete. It was only when the practices of the black man came into conflict with the laws of the white that we took cognizance of the natives' knowledge of poisonous plants, and their use for killing and curing. Even then the interest is superficial, being sufficient only to satisfy legal requirements, and it was unsatisfactory to be forced to undertake an investigation of a plant when a prosecution was pending.

Taking into account the richness of South African flora, the number of plants that have proved of real therapeutic value is disappointing. Only Buchu was listed officially in the British Pharmacopoeia. He was positive that the knowledge and manufacture of synthetic drugs did not render plant drug research superfluous. He then suggested the organization of chemical research on plant poisons.



Dr. William Fox

#### 1930—1931

The James Moir Memorial Essay Competition had as its title, "The Composition of Coal and Coke and their Industrial Applications to Purposes other than Steam Rising". Mr. P. E. Rousseau of Stellenbosch University was awarded the prize, perhaps the very foundation of SASOL being thus laid.

#### THE PRETORIA SECTION

The inaugural meeting was held on November 15, 1930, at the University of Pretoria, a gathering of 50 persons, including a contingent from Johannesburg, launching the Section on its way. Three meetings were held during the year.

#### NINETEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. William Fox, D.Sc., A.R.C.S., presented a unique field for consideration in his address, the chemical basis for variation in the individual. In the immediate past the tendency had been to focus attention more particularly on external factors, the bacteria, protozoa, virus, etc., but in future greater attention would have to be paid to the chemical individuality of the patient, because this plays no small part in rendering him more or less susceptible to a particular disease, the shaping of its course, and the individual's response to treatment.

#### 1931—1932

During the year, the principle of rebates to Sections from Council to enable them to operate and cover out-of-hand expenses was started and this provided a degree of independence which has marked the progress of the *Institute* ever since. The Depression was upon us.

#### THE NATAL SECTION

Mention was made in the Annual Report of the Section that economic exigencies had had a detrimental effect on the conduct of the Section, for in the private sector a great deal more was being demanded of employees, who now had to devote all their energies to the employers' activities. Field days were thus discontinued. However, ten meetings were held during the year, and the innovation of symposia had stimulated great interest.

#### THE PRETORIA SECTION

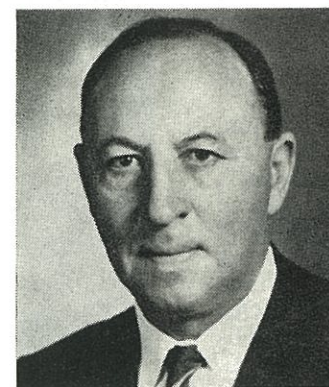
The Section reported good progress, but for the troubled economic times, which imposed salary reductions in the Civil Service and the University, the development would have been far greater.

The first lecture to be presented to the *Institute* in Afrikaans was delivered by Mr. J. R. van Wyk, M.Sc.—"Die uitloging van Fosforbindings en Proteïne uit Grassoorte deur Reënwater".

#### TWENTIETH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. A. Harding-Kloot, B.Sc., F.I.C., had just completed a country-wide tour when he addressed the *Institute*. He was gravely concerned at the distress that had been imposed on the Union by a world depression, and he blamed this on the collapse of all recognized methods of manufacture, trade, barter, economics, just as the Great War was a negation of all the principles of diplomacy and statesmanship.

The President believed that this was all largely due to the world not keeping pace with the progress made by science, especially chemistry. He, like predecessors, stated a case for scientists taking a hand in world management—"a little more chemistry for humanity's sake, a little less for chemistry's sake".



Mr. A. Harding-Kloot

#### 1932—1933

#### TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD

Mr. H. R. Raikes was in the Chair at Polley's Hotel, Pretoria, for the Twenty-First Annual General Meeting, and he stressed the fine record of the *Institute* to its coming-of-age. He was particularly impressed by the efforts of the Natal Section in the membership drive and this was largely responsible for the improved finances of the *Institute*.

#### DR. J. McCRAE

To mark the occasion, Honorary Life Membership of the *Institute* was conferred on the first President, Dr. John McCrae, who responded "that he was deeply moved to have been nominated by the first Honorary Life Member, Mr. Jas. Gray, the virtual and spiritual founder of this professional society".

#### MR. A. J. ADAMS

To mark the occasion and to express the appreciation of the *Institute*, Mr. Adams was presented with a fountain pen for his part in the anniversary celebrations.

#### TWENTY-FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Principal H. R. Raikes, M.A., took the opportunity of the Presidential Address to present the picture of the South African university as it was at that date, and to give his views for improvement. The President gave as his view that in newly developed countries training for the professions is considered as part of the duties of the universities. While he considered this is probably best done by the universities, he maintained that to a considerable extent it is not education at all, but vocational training, and is thus expensive. Hence, money that should be devoted to the advancement of knowledge was dissipated by routine teaching in the professional faculties.

Speaking of engineers, he claimed "if only students came to us with a knowledge of work-shop practice, we might make better engineers of them". He was emphasizing the need to apply academic knowledge in practice before learning graduated to education.



Principal H. R. Raikes



100 Fox Street,  
Johannesburg

Photo: "The Star"



Kelvin House,  
Marshall Street,  
Johannesburg

### TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This milestone was celebrated during May 1933, and took the form of a series of activities, with the object of spreading the publicity and resultant emphasis over a period. The press and newly established radio system were invoked to bring chemistry within the grasp of the man-in-the-street.

Professor J. A. Wilkinson inaugurated the celebrations by broadcasting from the Johannesburg Studio of the African Broadcasting Company, Limited.

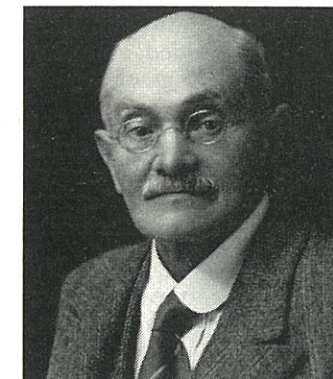
A week later, Kelvin House, 100 Fox Street, was open to the public for delivery of four popular lectures, followed a week later by a further series of four. Except for the first, which recorded the history of the *Institute* by Principal H. R. Raikes the President, the others were presented to emphasize the impact of chemistry in the seven facets of national life—the community, industry, agriculture, medicine, fuels, base metals and the gold industry.

The Anniversary Banquet was held at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg. Formal toasts, "His Majesty the King" and "His Excellency the Governor-General", were proposed by the President; "The South African Chemical Institute" by Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr (Minister of the Interior, Public Health and Education), response by the President, Principal H. R. Raikes; "The Union of South Africa" by Mr. F. C. Sturrock, M.P.; "Our Guests" by Professor J. A. Wilkinson, response by His Worship the Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor B. C. Vickers, M.P.C., and Mr. H. J. Hofmeyr (Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand).

### 1933—1934

The "Journal" came under attack during the year, for although it had been published from the date of formation of the *Institute*, there were doubts in some minds concerning its value. Understandably, the Natal Section strongly opposed the move, claiming that it was the only means of contact between most of the members; the "Proceedings" were a formal publication of the *Institute* which was a factual report, but members could not contribute to its contents.

To mark the Twenty-First Anniversary of the *Institute*, a commemorative publication was issued in October 1933, which contained all the addresses delivered during the celebrations, together with an account of the Anniversary Dinner. This was made possible by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines and African Explosives and Industries Limited, who contributed generously to this issue. Specially-bound copies were presented to the Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor D. Penry Roberts, Dr. P. M. Anderson, the President of the Chamber of Mines, who opened the Anniversary Celebrations, and to Principal H. R. Raikes, who was President of the *Institute* during the celebrations.



Professor B. de St. J. van der Riet

### 1934—1935

Due to the poor response in the past to the Essay Competition under the auspices of the James Moir Memorial Fund, Council altered the competition to cover the best thesis in chemistry, chemical engineering, industrial chemistry or metallurgy, submitted for the M.Sc. degree in science.

A census of salaries was conducted during the year to which 200 responded.

The Eastern Province Section was formed during the year, and with the formation of the Johannesburg Section the national nature of the *Institute* became apparent. The first general meeting of the latter Section was held on September 24, 1934.

With a view to publicizing chemistry, a series of six lectures were broadcast to South Africa. This, together with the support of the Press, enabled the local Sections to keep the *Institute* in the eyes and ears of the Union.

### TWENTY-SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor B. de St. J. van der Riet, M.A., Ph.D., presented his Presidential Address in two parts. He stressed the importance of a sound knowledge of language, but did not proceed further to consider its use by chemists; he was concerned with the "Chemist as a Human Being". The President was anxious to see a brotherhood of chemists "to build and maintain a tradition of unselfish consideration for each other, and at the same time to remember our duty to the public".

### TWENTY-THIRD PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. J. B. Robertson, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.C., was a teacher born and bred, a man to whom teaching was the noblest profession, and he did not forget that he was once a student when he rose to deliver his Presidential Address. He was concerned that the *Institute* did not make the most of its Student Members. He believed their views and voice should be heard and considered seriously. We as an *Institute* were too concerned with the Profession and frequently ignored our obligation to the next generation. He based a great deal of his Address on answers to a questionnaire he distributed to a large body of students.

It was obvious to him that the majority reason for a student following chemistry as his life was the interest instilled in him while at school, his success in the subject while there, but, most important, he clearly deduced that it was mainly the teacher influence, and he strongly advocated that the *Institute* should "keep close to the schools".

### TWENTY-SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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Dr. J. B. Robertson

1935—1936

African Explosives and Industries Limited offered a donation of £5 to be awarded annually for the best contribution to the proceedings of any of the Sections.

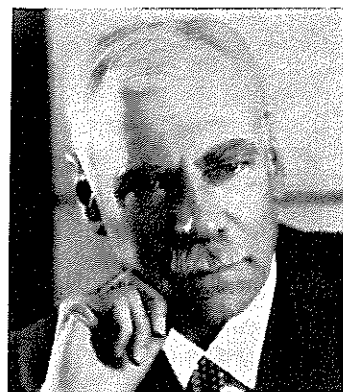
The General Purposes Committee was inaugurated with a view to easing the load on Council; together with Finance Committee, Publications Committee and the Applications and Appointments Register Committee, this formed the organism of the *Institute's* management.

The use of the term chemist, although it had received considerable attention over the years, was now clearly to be contested by the Pharmaceutical Society, having canvassed their members at the instigation of the *Institute*; our deputation was finally rebuffed, and the Press was used to express the Profession's views.

#### TWENTY-FOURTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. St. C. O. Sinclair, M.A., D.Sc., F.I.C., was the Chief of the Division of Chemical Services, and a Public Servant in every sense. He displayed this when he used as the theme for his Presidential Address chemistry in the service of the public. The President boldly claimed that chemistry dominated every facet of daily life, and would continue to do so with the progress of civilization.

The President made three points in relation to official recognition: "We require to gain the goodwill and support of our lay friends. In effect, the people are our masters, and we can stand well in their estimation only if we succeed in impressing upon them the need for our services." Secondly, "however great might be our traditional modesty in proclaiming ourselves, we must press forward with the education of our masters in matters chemical, keep them in touch with us". Thirdly, "to be recognized, we must be organized".



Dr. St. C. O. Sinclair

1936—1937

This was the year when Mr. Jas. Gray stepped out of office of the Honorary Secretary of the *Institute*. James Gray will always remain *the great* of the *Institute*. An appreciation was published in the Proceedings of the *Institute* on his relinquishing a position held with such distinction and for 25 years, 1912-1937, an unparalleled record.

Kelvin House, gracing the corner of Marshall and Hollard Streets in Johannesburg, was occupied in April 1937, and was made possible only by the generosity and sympathy of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines.

The first James Moir Memorial Award under the new conditions was made to Mr. S. G. Shuttleworth, M.Sc., Rhodes University College, for his theses, "The Determination of Nitrogen in Leather", and "The Quality of South African Vegetable Sole Leather".

The first African Explosives and Industries Award was made to Mr. G. W. Bond for his paper, "A Comparison of Routine Methods of Determining Hardness of Water", read to the Johannesburg Section on June 3, 1936.

#### TWENTY-FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

John Arthur McLachlan, M.Sc.(Eng.), assumed the office of President after ten years of membership, but they had been years crammed with work and idealism. It was to be expected that at this quarter century of the *Institute* he would review progress, particularly as he was destined to take over where James Gray had just stopped.

Johnny Mac, the title that he earned and most loved, was sceptical of the growing tendency towards the establishment of specialist associations of specialist chemists; "why are chemical societies more quarrelsome than physical ones?" He was hoping for one strong chemical society. However, his views were that it is impossible to obtain the advantages of a profession unless the member is prepared to pay for it, and this was relative to recognition.

He strongly emphasized a peculiar quirk, that the opposition to a reformer comes from those he most desires to benefit. He placed himself in the former category, but we now know the Profession's indebtedness to McLachlan. His review of the endeavours of succeeding Councils towards recognition covered the first twenty-five years.



John A. McLachlan, Esq.

1937—1938

Kelvin House was officially opened by Dr. P. M. Anderson, President of the Chamber of Mines, on October 29, 1937, at a ceremony attended by 600 hundred members and visitors.

The *Institute* now attempted a different approach towards recognition, the use of its position in the Associated Societies; this was stimulated by a speech of the Minister of Defence at a public dinner, wherein he outlined certain procedures professional societies might explore to gain protection from a "blanket bill".



Council had decided on the design of a seal to be used on all *Institute* documents, the crest we know today.

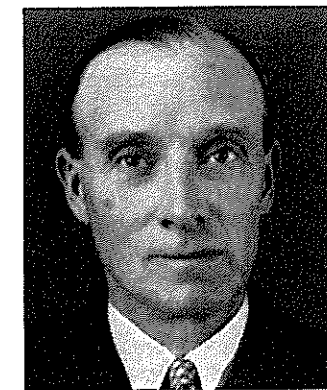
#### TWENTY-SIXTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Thos. D. Hall, B.A., M.Sc., is remembered chiefly for the impact of his profession in agriculture, yet he was inspired to acknowledge the interdependence of the chemist and the engineer. The theme of the Presidential Address was not a plea for co-operation between the chemist and other aspects of national development, it was a record of service, the irresistible intrusion of chemistry into everyday activities.

The President drew attention to chemistry as a disturbing economic factor, and suggested that perhaps the rate of chemical development was too fast for the world and thus was the cause of disturbance and discontent.



Dr. F. J. de Villiers



Thos. D. Hall, Esq.

1938—1939

The "Journal" and "Proceedings" of the *Institute* had been published regularly since 1913, but these obviously now had to be changed in character with the growing federal nature of the *Institute*. Consideration was given during the year to the publication of a monthly news sheet.

The appointments register had the effect of tending to raise salaries as both prospective employer and employee were able to assess the labour market situation better.

The first candidate entered for the *Institute's* examination, but was unsuccessful.

#### TWENTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. F. J. de Villiers, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.I.C., discussed the main factors which handicapped the industrial chemist in the Union and prevented industry from receiving the full benefit of modern scientific knowledge and research.

In the light of modern instrument development, the President questioned whether, particularly in the case of the plant chemist, university curriculae received too much attention, and thus do not enable the chemist to render the necessary service to industry under modern factory conditions. He emphasized the advantage of a knowledge of the allied sciences, and also an ability to calculate production costs, together with the background to translate bench experiment to pilot and full plant scale.



1939—1940

### SECOND WORLD WAR

South Africa was again at war, and the *Institute* immediately placed itself at the disposal of the authorities. Civilian Protective Services were a sphere for particular participation by members.

By a resolution of Council adopted in April 1940, the By-laws were amended to authorize the use of letters designating class of membership, and these have since remained unchanged.

### TWENTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. H. J. van Eck, M.Sc., D.Ing., was quick to assure chemists on the home front that they were serving their country to its best advantage by remaining behind in their strategic occupations. He also counselled not to continue with new fields when there is so much to do in the normal spheres, and to "deliver the goods".

He saw the vital role that chemists would now play in the field of agriculture, the products being so necessary for maintenance of overseas forces and the security of the sea routes. Food was as important as armaments.

Dr. van Eck then surveyed the status of the industrial production of petroleum products from indigenous raw materials. He envisaged the petrol from coal industry, and particularly the range of by-products which he prophesized would be economically more important than the fuel. He also envisaged a synthetic rubber industry, liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons being the bridge from coal.

1940—1941

The register of members was put to several uses during the year. It was placed at the disposal of the War Supplies Board, and all Government and Municipal Authorities.

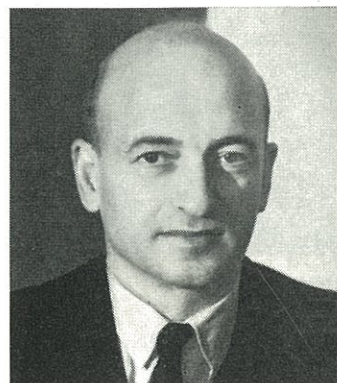
The Wage Board's Determinations gave the first recognition to chemists, although not exclusive, at least minimum conditions were established. This move did, however, only affect a small proportion of chemists. Thus, for the first time in the Union, the grades of chemical employment had been legally defined.

### TWENTY-NINTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

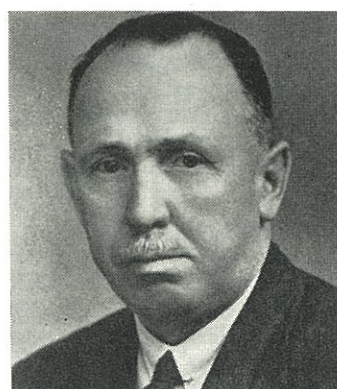
Mr. F. G. Braithwaite, F.I.C., appropriately surveyed the subject of canned foodstuffs, commodities then playing a very vital function in the overall war effort. He traced the history of food canning, and he claimed that British canning had its early upbringing at sea, with the Admiralty.

The South African Canning Industry had the advantage of a Food Canners' Council. Although fruit preserving and canning was an old South African industry, crayfish and vegetable canning were stimulated by war conditions.

The President then dispelled a popular concept that canned foods were dangerous, an idea lingering from poor techniques of the past, and concluded that "from a study of all the data, it can definitely be stated that canned foods are now considerably less liable than ordinary foods to be a source of food poisoning".



Dr. H. J. van Eck



Mr. F. G. Braithwaite

1941—1942

### SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL SECTION

The Southern Transvaal Section was formally inaugurated at a General Meeting held at Kelvin House on September 17, 1941. The first Chairman of the Section was Mr. H. D. Barnes, and amongst the Committee was one lady, Miss E. G. Harris.

A move, with stimulating effects on attendances, was instituted by the Southern Transvaal Section, which gave members the opportunity of debating professional matters, thus establishing a link between the general membership and Council.

### THE NEWS SHEET

This new innovation was an attempt to keep the general membership in closer touch with the *Institute*, and the News Sheet, being published monthly, contained agenda for meetings and notes by the Secretaries. The sheet was issued on dates to the convenience of the Secretaries for the purpose of providing notice of meetings, thus eliminating the further use of stationery. Mr. H. D. Barnes was the editor of this new inspiration.

On the initiative of Dr. H. J. van Eck and Dr. T. W. B. Osborn, a consultant was invited to review the constitution and development of the Institute and to consider the possibilities of producing on commercial lines a monthly publication. The recommendations were a re-organization on federal lines, with greater autonomy for the Local Sections, and two or three meetings of the Council during the year at different centres. The changes were ratified at a Special General Meeting on April 27, 1942.

### WESTERN PROVINCE SECTION

In March 1942, Mr. J. E. Worsdale gained the support of nine other members, and thus achieved the long held ambition of the *Institute*, that there should be some unification of chemical interests in the Western Province. Mr. H. J. Koch became the first Chairman.



Dr. J. P. van Zyl

### THIRTIETH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. J. P. van Zyl, B.A., Ph.D., believed that a great deal of the difficulties experienced by the *Institute* in attaining legal recognition for the Profession was due largely to the fact that a three-year degree course was in practice not a professional qualification. He drew attention in his Presidential Address to the fact that the Government departments were demanding a five-year course. He advocated the M.Sc. degree as the basis for minimum professional standard.

1942—1943

The consideration of admission of non-European persons to membership first occupied Council from the viewpoint that the nature of chemistry was international, and secondly that of South African convention. The principle was clear, but the decision was difficult. A compromise was reached which permitted them to be non-corporate members of local sections.

A referendum during the year was against an increase in subscriptions.

An innovation was the meeting of Section Secretaries, which took place in Johannesburg. This was the first of a series of annual meetings, which resulted in much useful work being accomplished prior to the A.G.M.s.

### THIRTY-FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor W. F. Barker, Ph.D., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.S.A., deplored the fact that the eminence and inspiration of past Presidential Addresses should have but a fleeting impact, and then were relegated to the archives. He therefore saw fit to resuscitate the important observations of his ten immediate predecessors.

The President then viewed the achievement of industrial expansion under war conditions, and stressed "the effects of the limited consuming capacity of the South African market as it exists to-day, and shows that the uneconomic scale on which our industries operate is partly responsible for the heavy cost of protecting them".



Professor W. F. Barker

#### 1943—1944

Professor G. H. Stanley was elected an Honorary Member as a tribute to outstanding service to the Profession over a period of 32 years, as foundation member and Past President for two periods of office.

The year was memorable, if just for one fact. The Government gave official recognition for the first time to the chemist. In the Wage Determination for the Cement Manufacturing Industry, a chemist was defined as one who "holds a university degree with chemistry as a major subject, or its academic equivalent as recognized by a competent examining authority such as the South African Chemical Institute". Council commended Mr. J. E. Worsdale, Mr. J. A. McLachlan and Mr. B. G. W. Hoare for their initiative during the negotiations.

#### THIRTY-SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. P. Kamerman, D.Sc., seized on the anomaly of the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, which requires the managing director of a firm manufacturing chemicals for medicinal purposes to be a pharmacist. He was critical of the exemption clause, which in effect placed a professional man of one category under an obligation to a board which had no jurisdiction over his profession. Yet, on the other hand, the pharmacist in terms of the Foods and Drugs Act was controlled by inspection, by chemists whose qualifications were rigidly prescribed, and which a pharmacist does not reach.

The President stated that "the various Acts do not any longer protect the public adequately against the spate of inferior products".

#### 1944—1945

Efforts were made to obtain some estimate of the numbers of chemists practising in the Union, particularly on account of the rapid membership growth during the war years.

#### DRAFT CHEMICAL BILL

Due largely to the efforts of the Immediate Past President, Dr. Kamerman, the Draft Bill was finally in a form which embodied the considered wishes of all Sections. At this stage Council circulated copies to outside interested bodies.

The Bureau of Standards Bill and the Research Council Bill came before Parliament, and in both the *Institute* opposed sections which could possibly affect the interests of those in private practice.

#### THIRTY-THIRD PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. J. E. Worsdale, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., naturally took for his Presidential Address the title, "The Future of Industrial Research", and stated that one per cent of the value added in manufacture would be "an immensely profitable investment", if invested in research. From the figures of the 1938 industrial census, this one per cent would mean £800,000.

The President then left no doubt that in the post-war generation, investment in research was the only means whereby the survival of South African manufacturing industry could be assured.



Dr. P. Kamerman



Mr. J. E. Worsdale

#### 1945—1946

A new arrangement was instituted whereby the first Council meeting of the new year would be coincident with the Annual General Meeting, and held in that location. This move was the forerunner of annual conventions.

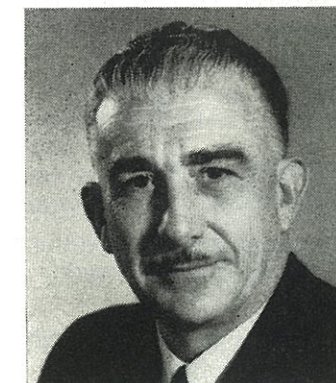
The publication of the *Journal* and *Proceedings* of the *Institute* in their old form was discontinued and replaced by a more informative news sheet in anticipation of a new series of publications.

The Western Province mooted the formation of a chemical engineering group within the *Institute*, it appearing practical as the Southern Transvaal Section operated an organic chemistry group.

A full record of the Draft Chemical Bill appears in the minutes of the General Purposes Committee of May 15, 1946.

#### THIRTY-FOURTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. T. J. Wilken Jorden, D.Sc., delivered his Presidential Address "n Inluidende Oorsig oor Koolteer-navorsing in Suid-Afrika" at the Arcadia Hotel on Friday June 21, 1946. Dr. A. J. Petrick proposed the vote of thanks to the President, and was ably supported by Dr. P. R. van der Riet Copeman.



Dr. T. J. Wilken Jorden

#### 1946—1947

#### FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION

This was held in Johannesburg during June 1947, and its success in the face of much speculation was largely due to Mr. C. F. Lindeman. His task was to stimulate to a pitch of enthusiasm a body of sceptics, chemists spread far and wide throughout the Union. Not daunted by the amount of work involved, he planned to continue on an annual basis, and this is now a fine record.

#### THIRTY-FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. E. Taberner, D.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.I.Chem.E., F.C.S., gave "Some Views on the Organization of Industrial Research" in his Presidential Address, as it was appropriate at the conclusion of hostilities to appreciate that industries of the Union would have to meet world competition. He claimed Industrial Research to be a long term investment, and an intangible asset.

The President stated that "the organization may be planned and expenditure allocated under the following sections, administration, intelligence, research proper and services". He stressed the need for understanding and appreciation between the research organization and management, manufacturing and commercial departments. Research did not progress best *in vacuo*.



Dr. E. Taberner

1947—1948

### SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL CHEMIST

September 1947 heralded the appearance of the South African Industrial Chemist, published as a monthly journal devoted to chemistry and industry in Southern Africa. Dr. Kenneth Angus Murray was its first Honorary Editor, and in his first editorial stated the objects of the publication and also envisaged it as a major link between chemist, chemical engineer and chemical executive.

The first issue carried messages of goodwill from the Hon. S. F. Waterson, Minister of Economic Development, Dr. B. F. J. Schonland, President of the C.S.I.R., Mr. Aubrey A. Menkin, Honorary Life President of the Transvaal Chemical Manufacturers' Association, and Dr. H. L. de Waal, President of the *Institute*.

This new publication now freed the "Journal" of the *Institute* to carry only research work.

### SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

Held in Pretoria under the Chairmanship of Dr. E. R. Orchard, the Second Convention was held in June and spread over four days. The Convention was opened by the Hon. the Minister of Mines and Economic Affairs. Iscor, the C.S.I.R. and Onderstepoort were the places of scientific interest visited by delegates. The Council and Secretaries met during the Convention to establish a traditional arrangement followed annually from then on.

### THIRTY-SIXTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor H. L. de Waal, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., claimed that with the membership of the *Institute* approaching 1,000, it is undoubtedly the body which in fact represents both academic and industrial chemists, and has been the main co-ordinating factor in the Profession.

The President presented his views on the ideal preparative studies to enter the Profession, and he believed that the greatest obstacle was the transition from high school to university; he suggested a pre-university year.

1948—1949

During the year the *Institute* membership exceeded 1,000 for the first time.

The "Journal" first appeared in its newest format and in conformity with Council policy, it would now only publish original research work. This was hoped would enhance its technical and professional prestige. The "Journal" in its original format and content had performed a very useful purpose and was largely responsible by its coalescing influence for the growth of the *Institute*.

Dr. K. A. Murray again rose to the occasion and assumed responsibility for the editing and production of both the "Journal" and the "Industrial Chemist".

1949—1950

### THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Third Annual Convention was held in Durban during July 1949. The most pleasing aspect of the Convention was the benefit chemists derived from being in residence at Howard College, and as a group being within the University environment.

The Hon. D. G. Shepstone, Administrator of Natal, opened the Convention. By profession a lawyer, the Administrator compared the ordered training and thought processes of chemist and lawyer, and he claimed great similarity, suggesting the advantage of being of both professions in this country, which was developing so rapidly in the industrial sector.

Two days were allocated to symposia on "Trade Effluents" and industrial processes. The plant visit was to Umbogintwini. The attendances were improved, due to the happy arrangement of both titles to symposia and the presence of members of the South African Branch of the Institution of Sewage Purification.

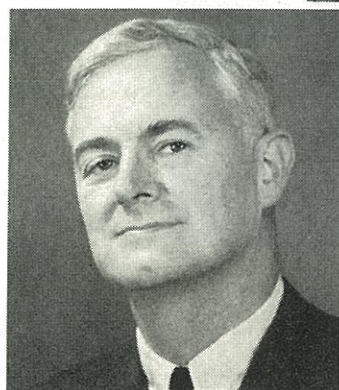
### THIRTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. W. H. Dyson, M.A., F.R.I.C., a chemist in industry, took just that concept for his Presidential Address, and laboured the importance of the plant chemist being able to get along with men—plant men; trust was as great an attribute as technical knowledge.

"Morale is that intangible quality without which no enterprise can prosper." Only from a high state of morale can leadership develop, only under these conditions can sacrifices be expected and extracted from the technical team. Fair promotion, efficiency and praise are ingredients that are a must in the plant chemist's character.



Professor H. L. de Waal



Mr. W. H. Dyson

1950—1951

### FIRST JAMES MOIR MEMORIAL LECTURE

As the past endeavours to perpetuate the memory of James Moir had not been successful, Council decided to inaugurate a series of memorial lectures.

A joint meeting of the *Institute* with the Chemical, Metallurgical and Mining Society of South Africa, the South African Association of Assayers and the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, was held at Kelvin House on November 8, 1949, with Mr. H. J. Koch in the Chair.

It was appropriate that the first President of the *Institute* should have been chosen to deliver the lecture, for, having known Moir, Dr. John McCrae introduced his subject, "Gold and Alchemy", with a tribute.

### CHEMICAL BILL

The *Institute* was still in earnest with this intention, but a slight change took place when the Associated Societies became interested in considering a Bill for Society Registration; but although Council aligned itself with the Kelvin House Group, it still reserved its right to act independently.

### FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Held in Cape Town during September 1950, under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. L. Abbott, the Convention set final seal to their continuation, high technical order and overwhelming hospitality.

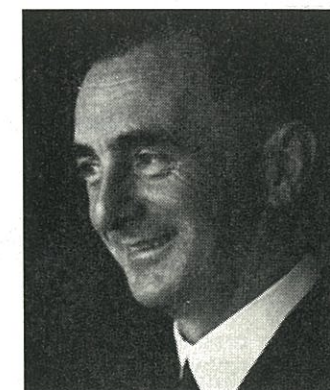
Seventeen lectures formed the programme, one of which was open to the public. There were seven excursions in all. Subjects covered a variety of interests from theoretical to industrial.

An innovation was the introduction of a symposium on the "Corrosion of Concrete", which enabled the South African Branch of the Institution of Sewage Purification to be a part of the Convention.

### THIRTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. H. J. Koch, M.Sc., A.R.I.C., addressed the *Institute* on "Fertilizers in South Africa", and stated that it was not only the botanical, agricultural and chemical aspects of fertilizers that demand the attentions of chemists, but consideration of economics was even more important.

The President gave some most important suggestions on the subject of losses due to soil erosion, and made recommendations towards controlling this increasing scourge, by application of fertilizers with a view to stimulating cover growth.



Mr. H. J. Koch



Dr. P. R. van der Riet Copeman

1951—1952

### FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Port Elizabeth was the venue of the Fifth Annual Convention during October 1-6, 1951, and following the precedent of the previous year, the *Institute* combined with the Society of Leather Trades Chemists (S.A. Section) and the Institute of Sewage Purification (S.A. Branch).

The proceedings of symposia were built on the chemistry and processes of local industry, and centred on wattle extracts, rubber processing and wool technology, which provided ample scope and interest for the participating societies.

### THIRTY-NINTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. P. R. v. d. R. Copeman, in his Presidential Address, made a plea that chemists should take a greater interest in the ultimate practical applications of their work, for the laboratory stage was but the beginning of a project that in most instances does, or could, become the basis of an industrial commercial undertaking.

The President also emphasized a regrettable tendency, which was to him inevitable however, that the higher the chemist rose in his sphere of work, the less he would have to exercise his purely chemical abilities. This was the zone in which the humanistic qualities would be necessary.

1952—1953

## SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

### RUBY JUBILEE

June 30—July 4, 1952

The Proceedings comprised a series of a symposia on Tobacco, Pressure Gassification of Coal, Organic Chemistry, Re-use of Water, Public Health, Chemical Education, Insecticides, and Chemical Research in the Gold Mining Industry.

The Ruby Jubilee Dinner and Dance was held at the Skyline Hotel, Hillbrow.

Mr. C. G. MacLean, President of the Chamber of Mines, opened the Convention and briefly traced the contributions which chemistry had made to South African Industry, particularly Mining.

The first President, Dr. J. McCrae, and Mr. James Gray, took part in the Proceedings, and Professor G. H. Stanley was the third founder member present.

To mark the Ruby Jubilee of the *Institute*, Council decided to honour six men of eminence for their distinguished services.

Dr. F. J. de Villiers, *Past President*.

Dr. H. H. Dodds, *Past President*.

Dr. F. Meyer, *Member*.

Dr. H. R. Raikes, *Past President*.

Dr. H. J. van Eck, *Past President*.

Mr. J. E. Worsdale, *Past President*.

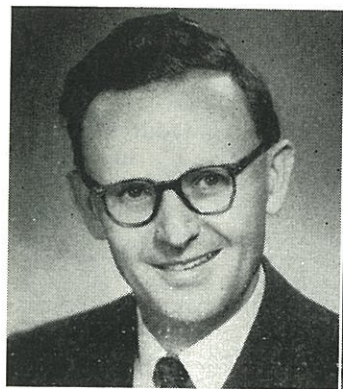
During the year, the two publications of the *Institute* became quite distinct entities, being assisted by two independent editorial advisory boards, and these two in turn were co-ordinated by the Publications Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. S. Israelstam.

The registration of professions was brought to the attention of the membership through a referendum. Ballot forms were sent to 889 corporate members, and to avoid confusion, members voted on one issue, *viz.* the compulsory registration of the individual. Five hundred and thirty-one responded, being a 59 per cent poll. The result, 144 in favour, 384 against.

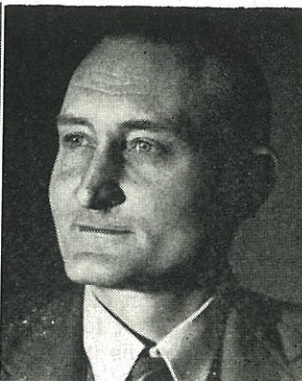
### FORTIETH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. L. F. Addis-Smith took the opportunity to recapitulate the history of the *Institute*, but particularly with emphasis on its achievements and ambitions.

The President then surveyed the progress of chemical industry and presented statistical information on the South African scene, but closed on a sobering note that industrial processes were but clumsy reproductions "of the most complex chemical substances from the simplest of materials," achieved by Nature's lowly plants by the wayside. Therein resided the greatest chemical challenge.



Mr. L. F. Addis-Smith



Dr. A. J. Petrick

DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE INDUSTRIËLE CHEMIKUS, Januarie 1963

1953—1954

## SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Durban in July was again the venue of the Convention. Dr. G. C. Scully opened the proceedings and addressed the meeting on the rise of professionalism. One of the main features of the programme was the Wattle Chemistry Symposium, which covered theoretical chemical considerations and analytical techniques. A pleasing aspect of the proceedings was the time allocated for discussion which was much appreciated by delegates and set a new pattern, whereby delegates were afforded the opportunity of knowing one another.

### PORTRAITS OF PAST PRESIDENTS

Council decided that recognition should be given to Past Presidents of the *Institute* by hanging their portraits in Kelvin House. One of the Committee Rooms has been allocated to the *Institute* for this purpose.

### FORTY-FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. A. J. Petrick, M.Sc., Dr.Ing., was at pains to understand why, although mankind had acknowledged the advantages that had accrued from science, there was such turmoil and dissatisfaction. "The application of science has been directly responsible for the so-called 'emancipation of the masses' who avail themselves of the amenities provided by science with little thought to the effort expended in providing and maintaining them, or a will to share the burden and responsibility."

The President stated that "science can never become a profession in the true sense of the word, until it gives more serious consideration to the ethical principles and social relations involved in its activities". He provided statistical analysis of the Union's research endeavour, and then went on to claim that science must have a place in public affairs. Above all we must cultivate "a greater interest in, and consciousness of the impact of science, our science, on our society".

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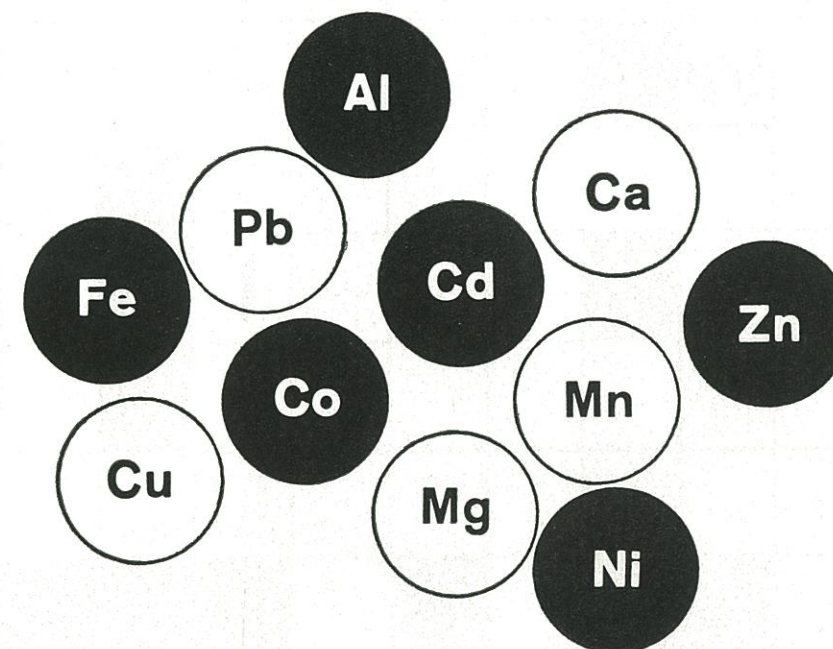
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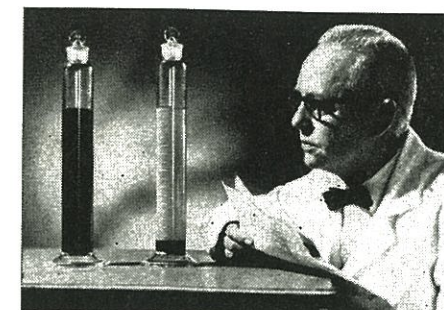
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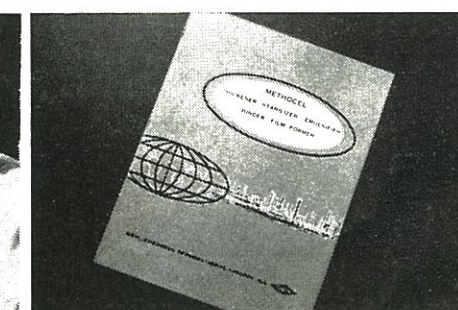
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1954—1955

## EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Anxious always to please and exceed, each convention committee has progressively set its sights higher, but Pretoria accepted the theme of "Petrol from Coal" and choreographer Cobie Court interpreted Dr. Petrick so faithfully, and in such ballet spectacles, that they have not been emulated. The ballet was in three acts, the gassification of coal, purification of gas and, finally, synthesis—the formation of petrol. This dancing memory has been captured with intimate atmosphere by Dr. K. A. Murray and is perpetuated in the special Convention Issue of the "Chemist". The "Chemist" with this commemorative issue set a new pattern which led to the publication of special convention issues.

Another particular feature of the programme, which centred on the industries in the environs of Pretoria, was the underground visit to the Douglas colliery near Witbank, where delegates went underground and were conducted through the entire process of mining and recovery, to dispatch.

## SECOND JAMES MOIR MEMORIAL LECTURE

In asking Dr. O. G. Backeberg to deliver the second memorial lecture, it was the wish to honour a member of the chemical profession in South Africa who by his teaching and research had helped in furthering scientific progress in the Union. Dr. Backeberg selected as title for the lecture, "The Transmutation of Elements".

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

Arising from the unbounded enthusiasm of Mr. G. S. James, the Southern Transvaal Section inaugurated a great service which was supported by more outsiders than by members. This move has greatly enhanced the prestige of the *Institute* and was the beginning of the Section's growing financial reserves.



Professor L. D. C. Bok

## FORTY-SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Professor L. D. C. Bok, M.Sc., Dr.rer.Nat., regretted that as the scientist was gradually receding in his contact with the public, scientists due to specialization were receding from themselves.

The President, in an historical survey, showed how the amateur scientist of yore had little chance of individual spectacular success to-day, due very largely to the expense and complexity of modern instrumentation. Because of the latter, it was increasingly the responsibility of the Government to see that scientific progress in the Union was not restrained for lack of money.

If the taxpayer should pay, then liaison should be established by way of popular lectures, to let them realize the reason for public and government contribution.

1955—1956

## NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

One hundred and forty-one delegates converged on Cape Town for the Convention, which was opened on February 6 in the Jameson Hall, University of Cape Town, by the Minister of Economic Affairs, the Hon. Dr. A. J. R. van Rhijn, a chemist in his own rights.

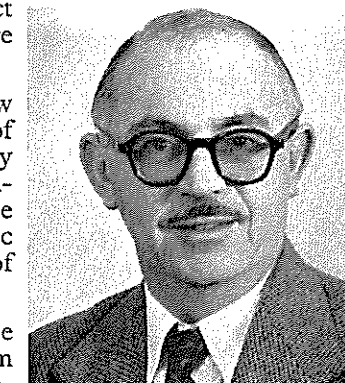
Highlights of the proceedings were the symposia on fermentation, food and chemical education, while Wednesday will be long remembered for the hospitality of Rembrandt Tobacco Company amidst typical Cape scenery at a braaivleis, after a full day of excursions to Paarl and Stellenbosch.

## FORTY-THIRD PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. S. S. Israelstam, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., briefly reviewed the contributions of chemistry to South African living standards, and felt that the *Institute's* first duty to the public was one of information. The President drew inspiration from the publicity that flowed from the Ruby Jubilee Celebrations, when the *Institute* was featured in all the Press and very extensively on the radio.

In this public relation work, the President viewed the Sections as eminently suited to the task of selling chemistry, and he praised the growing understanding between the Profession and organized Chemical Industry. He then went on to picture the difference between chemists and chemical technicians, and amplified these observations with his views on chemical education.

Dr. Israelstam's concluding remarks were that "the status of our *Institute* is intimately bound up with our relationship to the community".



Dr. S. S. Israelstam

1956—1957

Through the enthusiasm of Dr. R. E. Robinson and his close personal association with the South African Uranium Project, the *Institute* was able to publish the largest issue ever of the "Chemist", coinciding with the declassification of most of the uranium information.

#### TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Three hundred and sixty-one delegates registered in Johannesburg on September 24 for the tenth Annual Convention, which was opened at Kelvin House by Mr. C. B. Anderson, President of the Transvaal and Orange Free State Chamber of Mines.

This large attendance can perhaps be attributed to the release of the Uranium Project for discussion and publication, and consequently the Uranium Industry figured largely in the convention programme, and the highlight was the group visits to three of the Witwatersrand uranium plants.

The Convention Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. S. Israelstam introduced a new concept of bringing eminent scientists from overseas to augment local professional knowledge and experience, in specific facets of the proceedings. Dr. R. Spence was the first such guest of the *Institute*, he being the Head of the Chemical Division of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Harwell.

The *Institute's* first formal visit to SASOL took place on September 29, when four buses transported delegates to the Free State. This was a happy occasion as SASOL had largely overcome its most crippling technological problems and had announced its first profit.

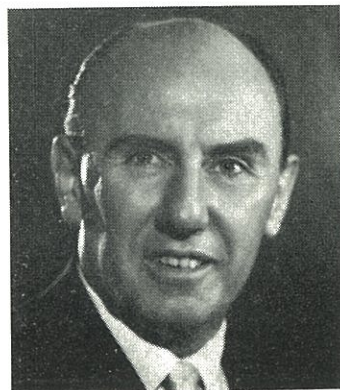
#### C. F. LINDEMAN

Mr. C. F. Lindeman served on Council from 1926—1946, at which stage he became Honorary Secretary to the *Institute*, a position he relinquished in June 1956. For conspicuous service and devotion, he was elevated to Honorary Membership of the *Institute*.

#### FORTY-FOURTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. F. W. Hayes, F.R.I.C., A.M.I.Chem.E., presented a most lucid exposition on the difference between "The Industrial Chemist vs. The Chemist in Industry", his views being concerned with personal qualities.

The President then examined the picture more closely by presenting examples of recent theoretical and technological advances in the Sugar Industry, based essentially upon recent research projects. He also provided a vista of present achievement and future expectations from the multiplicity of industrial fermentation processes.



Mr. F. W. Hayes

1957—1958

#### JAMES GRAY, 1882—1957

The passing of James Gray, Esq., closed an epoch in the life of the *Institute*, for very nearly at every development his name appeared. A tribute to James Gray is very nearly synonymous to a history of the *Institute*, and amongst the many expressions of esteem at his passing were those from every walk of life, politician, statesman and scientist.

#### ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Durban shared with Pietermaritzburg the opportunity of entertaining delegates from all quarters of the Union during July, and on all sides the Convention was acclaimed highly successful. Visits were arranged to Umkomaas and the Standard Vacuum Refinery, while a visit to the Natal Capital elevated the proceedings into the highest facets of theoretical chemistry.

#### VAAL RIVER SECTION

Mr. P. R. C. Cooke provided the inspiration to hold a Section Convention at Vereeniging, and so enticing were his arrangements that 80 members and friends enrolled and stayed the weekend at the Riveria Hotel.

The intention was to sponsor the formation of a local section based on the industrial complex of the Vaal River Basin, and these industrial interests were the subjects of the papers presented at the Convention. A resolution was taken that Dr. L. J. Dry would obtain the necessary signatures for the formation of the Section.

The inaugural meeting of the new section was held on March 27, 1958, when Dr. Dry initiated the proceedings. Mr. W. M. Neale-May was elected the first Chairman, and in his address stated that it was in his opinion the duty of the *Institute* to enrol both chemists and chemical engineers, and laboratory technicians, whose position and status the *Institute* had fostered.

#### FORTY-FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. F. Hawke, M.Sc.(Eng.), Ph.D., F.R.I.C., A.M.I.Chem.E., took as the subject for his Presidential Address, "The Old Order Changeth", wherein he traced the change from investigation in a chemical research programme using the purely chemical techniques, to the situation where physical principles, methods and theories hold the solutions.

Because of this change it was essential to have more highly qualified chemists, and the *Institute* was well aware of this need, hence its drive towards further and higher constitutional requirements of those seeking corporate membership.



Dr. F. Hawke

1958—1959

#### TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Convention opened in Port Elizabeth on July 14. An ambition of many years was achieved by the Convention Committee in releasing in booklet form all the papers to be presented at the Convention. Each delegate received a copy on registration.

A new trend was observed in the subjects on the programme, an unexpected emphasis on engineering and technological plant practice, which covered salt, dust and mist control, and timber preservation. The major drawcard was, however, the public lecture in the City Hall on "Space Travel", by Dr. Arthur Blesley.

An exhibition valued at £20,000 was arranged to acquaint delegates with a wide variety of instruments and equipment.

#### FORTY-SIXTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. A. L. Abbott, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.Inst.P., claimed that the antiquity of chemistry was brief by comparison with law and medicine, if the yardstick was the age of the professional organization. He then developed the story of chemistry that progressed from Egyptian times to the opening of this century.

The President was hopeful that at the end of its fiftieth year the *Institute* would represent "in fact as well as name, practically all chemists in South Africa". He urged the compilation of a complete register of all Union chemists.

Mr. Abbott expressed views on university training of chemical graduates, hopeful that by some such changes the products of the universities would fit more easily, and to better purpose, into the ever-widening industrial picture.



Mr. A. L. Abbott



Dr. H. A. E. McKenzie

1959—1960

#### THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Dr. the Hon. N. J. Diederichs, Minister of Economic Affairs, opened the Convention in Pretoria on July 20. Professor H. G. H. Erdtman and his wife, Dr. G. Aulin-Erdtman were the Convention's illustrious guests from Sweden, their contributions being to the symposia on plant products and medical biochemistry. The programme was on chemical concepts, although the chemistry of atomic energy did provide a slightly different emphasis.

#### FORTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. H. A. E. McKenzie, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.I.C., A.R.I.C., used a quotation attributed to Galileo for his Presidential Address, and stated that analysis was in fact the very heart of "One of the Greatest and Noblest Problems", the search for the understanding of the constitution of matter.

The President showed that the modern analyst was no longer a bench worker, he is virtually a manager orientating a team and marshalling equipment and knowledge towards an enquiry which uses analytical techniques. He drew particular attention to the concept of accuracy in relation to reporting results. Dr. McKenzie took the opportunity to review the prospects of laboratory and plant process control automation.

#### FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

On account of the importance of weather in Cape Town, two conventions were held in the same *Institute* year. The Convention opened on February 8, 1960, and a particular feature was the care with which ladies accompanying the delegates received attention. Each day excursions and topics of interest were arranged for them which stimulated and maintained their interest throughout the Convention.

Other than the symposium on protective coatings, the others were concerned with the details of technical chemistry and its teaching. The dinner-dance was held at "Broadway" on the foreshore, high above the lights of the Mother City.

1960—1961

**JOHN McCRAE, 1875—1960**

Dr. J. McCrae passed away on April 11, 1960, leaving another gap in the list of visionaries who anticipated the *Institute* and laboured for its attainment.

**THIRD JAMES MOIR LECTURE**

Kelvin House on May 4, 1960, was the scene of the third James Moir Lecture, delivered by Dr. J. van Garderen on "The Work of the Government Chemical Laboratories".

**THE "JOURNAL"**

Under the Editorship of Dr. D. E. A. Rivett and the enthusiasm of Professor F. L. Warren, the "Journal" commenced publishing a list of current research work being conducted in South Africa, and this was hailed by those in the field as an outstanding service.

**THE RAIKES MEDAL**

A gold medal to commemorate the late Dr. H. R. Raikes was struck during the year, for presentation to a chemist of outstanding promise, under the age of 30 years, based on his published chemical work.

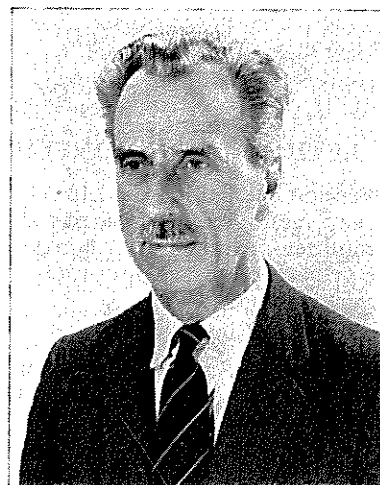
This medal was made possible by the generosity of the Southern Transvaal Section.

**FORTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Dr. G. W. Perold, D.Sc., Dr.sc.techn., was prompted by the course of his life to tell the story of "The Researcher Outside the Walls", which is necessary due to the "massive shift in research activity which characterizes our century of exploding technological development", thus removing the concentration of research work away from the universities to industry. Thus the type of research work is largely influenced by necessity rather than curiosity and a search for knowledge.



Dr. G. W. Perold



Professor F. L. Warren

1961—1962

**JOHN ARTHUR McLACHLAN**

Though not one of the originators of the *Institute*, John McLachlan had served it well, so that his passing on November 12, 1961, removed yet another of the stalwarts who had made service to the Profession their life's obsession.

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

His Honour the Administrator of Natal, Mr. A. E. Trollip, opened the Convention at Howard College on July 17.

The theme of the proceedings was the chemistry of local industry and natural products, while visits to the Nagel Dam and the Whaling Station were arranged. Professor D. H. R. Barton was the guest of honour for the Convention. The concluding traditional dinner-dance was held at the Durban Country Club.

**FORTY-NINTH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Professor F. L. Warren, Ph.D., D.Sc., A.R.C.S., D.I.C., F.R.I.C., summarized his experiences "after practising organic chemistry on this Continent for the last 30 years". The President traced the development from natural drugs to synthetics stimulated by the need to combat disease in tropical areas. As a paliative, insecticides were produced, but were not consistently effective, due to the growing resistance of the insects involved.

The President considered the exploitation of the products of agriculture and showed that in this field there was a distinct possibility. He called for international collaboration in this sector.

**1962 ONWARDS**

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations coincided with the Sixteenth Annual Convention, and were held in Johannesburg between July 2-11, 1962. The Proceedings of the Celebrations are recorded elsewhere in this issue of the "Chemist".

# XVI Annual Convention

1962—1963

**THE GOLDEN YEAR**

Under the Chairmanship of Professor S. S. Israelstam, a committee was charged by Council with the task of arranging a special celebration to mark the first fifty years of the *Institute*, and it was appropriate that these functions should coincide with the XVI Annual Convention in Johannesburg.

This committee could not have functioned efficiently without the unstinting services of Mr. M. Mrost, who shouldered the secretarial work from the commencement of the committee's activities during the preparatory period of two years' organization. The final composition of the Golden Jubilee Committee was, in addition to these two main personalities, Dr. A. Mendelowitz, Dr. W. S. Rapson (President 1961—1962), Dr. K. Mathiesen, Dr. L. Glasser, Mr. M. Waite and Mr. P. R. C. Cooke; to Mr. Cooke in person much of the success was due for the tremendous drive he staged to obtain financial sponsorship. So successful was he, that the Convention Fund closed with a record surplus.

**OVERSEAS VISITORS**

It was early realized that to lend international lustre to the Jubilee proceedings and to emphasize the importance of the occasion, it was decided that scientists of world eminence should be the guests of the *Institute* for the duration of the Celebrations.

This Journal published *curriculae Vitae* of the principal guests in the May 1962 issue. The following scientists finally accepted—

- Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, F.R.S.
- Sir Robert Robinson, O.M., F.R.S.
- Prof. C. J. van Nieuwenburg
- Prof. F. C. Tompkins, F.R.S.
- Prof. B. C. L. Weedon.

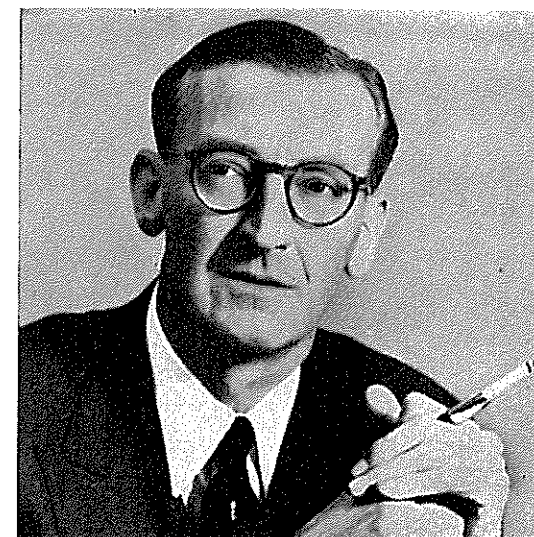
**CONVENTION PRESIDENT**

Due to the absence in Great Britain of the President elect, Professor F. L. Clark, Dr. W. S. Rapson, the retiring President, continued in Presidential Office for the duration of the Celebrations.

Dr. Rapson was particularly alive to the value of publicity and was host at the Three Vikings in Johannesburg on May 24, 1962, to make formal announcements to the Press and Radio in relation to the proceedings during the Celebrations. A particular feature which will long be remembered, and which brought chemistry to the Nation during the Convention, was the wide and intimate coverage that was afforded the *Institute* by these two media.

**"South African Prosperity from 50 Years of Chemistry"**

This was the theme of the Convention, and attracted 350 registrations from every part of Southern Africa.



Professor F. L. Clark,  
President  
The South African Chemical Institute

**SOUTH AFRICAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE  
GOLDEN  
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CELEBRATIONS**

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