

SYMPOSIUM ON SPECTROSCOPY

INTRODUCTION

BY EMERY H. ROGERS¹ AND JOHN B. MARLING¹

As part of the continuing program of the ASTM toward improvement and standardization of methods of analysis and testing, the Third Pacific Area National Meeting, October 11-16, 1959, provided Committees E-2 on Emission Spectroscopy and E-13 on Absorption Spectroscopy with an opportunity to sponsor a symposium covering the technical subjects in which these committees have a direct responsibility. This symposium included emission, X-ray, flame photometry, ultraviolet absorption, magnetic resonance, and infrared spectroscopy. In addition, reports were presented on Russian molecular spectroscopy and the 1959 European spectroscopy meetings.

The theme of the program was unsolved problems, although this category necessarily was not exclusive. In soliciting papers for the meeting, the program chairmen also had to consider the availability and location of speakers—San Francisco is several thousand miles removed from the heavy concentration of scientific personnel in the northeastern United States—as well as the degree of activity and state of scientific progress in the various spectroscopic areas of interest. Nevertheless at least three papers in each of the six fields of spectroscopic interest were secured and a total of twenty five papers were presented at six sessions during three

days. Actually the program comprised four days, the third day being utilized to visit several local electronics firms and the Vallecitos Atomic Research Laboratory. By breaking up the session in this manner and completely avoiding concurrent sessions, it was believed that the maximum benefit to participants would be obtained.

The ASTM publication of the papers, of necessity, cannot include all of the session presentations. An appreciable percentage of the speakers lectured from notes and subsequently did not formally write up their deliveries. It is to be regretted that some very worthwhile material has been lost to this publication as a result, but participants in the sessions could not be restricted by a publication requirement. However a paper by C. H. Anderson on "The Application of Some Spectrographic Technique to the Analysis of Water Formed Deposits" has been added. This paper also appeared in the Symposium on Identification of Water-Formed Deposits, STP 256.

The program chairmen wish to thank the following members of their committee for their assistance: A. A. Chodos, California Institute of Technology; W. E. Davis, Applied Research Laboratories; W. J. Schenck, Perkin-Elmer Corp.; R. E. Barieau, R. E. Barieau; A. T. Myers, Geological Survey; D. O. Alford, Union Oil Co.; L. A. Strait, University of California Medical Center.

In addition, thanks and acknowledgment are extended to the follow-

¹ Instrument Field Engineering Division, Varian Associates, Palo Alto, Calif.; Co-Chairmen of Symposium Committee.

ing technical chairmen: M. F. Hasler, Applied Research Laboratories; A. Zalkin, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California; J. Guffy, California Research Corp.; G. Pake, Stanford University; C. S. French, Stanford University; and to the presiding officers for the first two sessions, namely C. L. Clark, The Timken Roller Bearing Co. and R. E.

Paine, Aluminum Company of America.

Originally Russell Varian had agreed to chairman one session, but his death in Alaska on July 28, 1959, intervened. The passing of this outstanding scientist and humanitarian was a severe loss to the ASTM program as well as to the world-wide scientific community.