

portant to be exact with figures. Our experience in editing *Chemical Abstracts* proves this assertion over and over again. Good English in chemical literature, particularly in naming compounds, needs cultivation.

The Organic Division chose a good time to start a movement for better nomenclature and it seems to me that while correcting ourselves in regard to the benzene hydrocarbons we would do well to give thought to other needed reforms. It seems as though such a statement should be accompanied by some specific recommendations. I am not an authority, but possibly the accumulated experience from the constant effort which has been made in the office of *Chemical Abstracts* to keep the abstract journal an example of good nomenclature justifies the statement of a few preferences. The subject has been carefully studied, particularly by those who preceded the present editor and later in connection with the Decennial Subject Index,¹ and the advice of those who seemed best able to help has often been sought. I believe that there will be no disagreement concerning the preferences stated below although frequent divergence from them is observable. They are abridged from "Directions for Assistant Editors and Abstractors of *Chemical Abstracts*." The nomenclature rules in these directions have come to be known, it seems, as representing the forms approved by the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY. Requests for information as to the forms so approved are not infrequent. To make our list of nomenclature rules, perhaps after modification, more authoritative, or to formulate a new one and to settle points of disagreement (a number of other preferences could be stated but the chances of disagreement would be greater with reference to them), it would seem to me that a revival of the Society's dismissed Committee on Inorganic Nomenclature and its Committee on Organic Nomenclature would be opportune. Such a suggestion will be made.

In naming a compound so as to indicate that oxygen is replaced by sulfur the prefix *thio* and not *sulfo* should be used (*sulfo* denotes the group SO_3H); thus HCNS , thiocyanic acid; H_3AsS_4 , thioarsenic acid; $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, sodium thiosulfate; $\text{CS}(\text{NH}_2)_2$, thiourea. Note particularly that *thiocyanate* is preferable to *sulfocyanide* for salts of HCNS .

The word *hydrate* should not be used for a compound with OH ; it is reserved for compounds with H_2O . Thus, chlorine *hydrate*, $\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$; barium *hydroxide*, $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$.

Salts of chloroplatinic acid are *chloroplatinates* (not *platini-chlorides*). Similarly salts of chlorauric acid are to be called *chloraurates*.

Hydroxyl derivatives of hydrocarbons are to be given names ending in *-ol*, as *resorcinol*, *pinacol* (not *pinacone*), *mannitol* (not *mannite*). There may be objection to the form *glycerol* rather than *glycerin* because the latter is so well established.

German names ending in *-it* should be translated *-ite* rather than *-it*; as *permutite*. If it seems desirable to retain the original form of a trade name it should be placed in quotations, as "*permutit*." Alcohols such as $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5(\text{OH})_6$ (German *Dulcit* = *dulcitol*) are exceptions.

The German ending "*-carbonsäure*" should never be translated "*-carbonic acid*."

It is desirable that in the case of organic compounds the connective *o* be used invariably in such names of substituent radicals as amino-, bromo-, chloro-, cyano-, and iodo-; thus bromobenzene, chloroacetic, nitroaniline. This conforms to the demands of euphony and also makes for uniformity in indexing. The use of this connective makes for better English; its omission is German-like. There are a few apparent exceptions to this rule as cyanamide, chloraurate.

The names of the groups NH_2 , NHR , NR_2 , NH , or NR should end in *-ido* only when they are substituents in an acid group, otherwise in *-ino*; thus $\text{MeC}(\text{NH})\text{OEt}$, ethyl imidoacetate; $\text{NH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, β -aminopropionic acid (not *amidopropionic acid*); $\text{NHPhCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, β -anilinopropionic acid; $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{NH})\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, α -iminopropionic acid.

Hydroxy-, not *oxy-*, should be used in designating the hydroxyl group; as *hydroxyacetic acid*, $\text{CH}_2(\text{OH})\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, not *oxyacetic acid*. *Keto-* is to be preferred to *oxy-* to designate the group $-\text{CO}-$. This is a case in which it is particularly bad to follow German practice.

The term *ether* should never be used for compounds which are properly called esters.

¹ See Patterson and Curran, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **39** (1917) 1623-38.

Salts of organic bases with hydrochloric acid should be called *hydrochlorides* (not *hydrochlorates* nor *chlorhydrates*). Similarly *hydrobromide* and *hydriodide* (not *hydroiodide*) are preferable.

Sucrose is preferable to *saccharose* or *cane sugar*.

A rather common practice among American chemists and one which does not seem good is the use of the word *body* when *chemical compound* or *chemical substance* is meant. It is desirable to distinguish between a physical body and a chemical substance or compound. The fact that the Germans rather frequently use "*Körper*" for "*chemical compound*" has probably influenced this not incorrect but undesirable use of "*body*" in English.

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AN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR SCALE

Editor of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*:

As one whose regular work calls for frequent use of the polariscope, I wish to express my approval of the proposition made by C. A. Browne in your issue of November 1, that this is an opportune time to adopt an international sugar scale and that the Sidersky and Pellet scale based on a normal weight of 20 g. instead of the French and German scales now in use. The arguments advanced in favor of the proposed scale are convincingly stated and certainly no more favorable time can arrive than the present critical time for the proposed change.

I would suggest that no time be lost in bringing the matter to the attention of polariscopists in Great Britain, France, and Italy.

Would it not be an advantage to have every polariscope equipped with both the angular scale and the sugar scale, with the outer edge of the vernier reading on one scale and the inner edge fitted to read fractional parts on the other? The expense would not be serious.

Now that many polariscopists are using as a standard light filter a bichromate of potash filter in which the thickness in centimeters multiplied by the percentage of crystals = 9, we have a standard of approximately monochromatic light which is more conveniently reproduced than the sodium flame, now that electric lights are in use everywhere. It should not be difficult to secure standard glass plates whose absorption as filters would equal in every respect that of the bichromate filter.

With the new scale, the standard light filter, and the standard quartz control plate adopted universally, international polariscopy would seem to have been placed on a very desirable footing.

REGINA, CANADA
November 15, 1918

W. W. ANDREWS

THE 1918 DIRECTORY—AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

The 1918 Directory of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY is now available for members. It contains 422 pages as compared with the 1916 Directory's 289 pages, and it exceeds by approximately 4,000 the number of members listed in the 1916 issue. The Directors have voted that it may be obtained by members from the Secretary on payment of \$1.00 to cover partial cost of printing and upon their written statement that it is desired for their personal use only and will not be loaned or disposed of to any firm with which they may or may not be connected or to any individual to be used for advertising purposes.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
December 10, 1918

CHARLES L. PARSONS

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