Letters to the Editor

47th Symposium on Analytical Chemistry

Kitao FUJIWARA

Department of Chemistry, The University of Tokyo, Hongo, Tokyo 113

The 47th Symposium on Analytical Chemistry, sponsored by The Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry, was held on June 6 and 7 at the campus of the Faculty of Education, Gunma University, located at Aramaki, Maebashi, Gunma Prefecture. This symposium was organized by a committee consisting of 24 members of the Kanto branch of the Society with Professor Hideo Akaiwa, Gunma University as the chairman. The number of attendants was 431, 180 talks were presented, distributed in 5 lecture rooms.

The program of the symposium was formed by two kinds of talk, one for general topics (15 min) and another (25 min) on three topical subjects. Those subjects were "Application of Flow Phenomena to New Methods of Analysis (room A; 21 talks)", "New Direction in Analytical Chemistry towards Life Science (room B; 15 talks)" and "Methods of Measurement in Analytical Chemistry (room C; 22 talks)". This symposium featured those talks on topical subjects. Before starting the presentation, the introductory remarks (pre-scope) of the each subject were given by the coordinator, who also gave a review of the presented talks after the presentation. This is the first attempt at such organization of our symposia.

The coordinator for the subject of "Application of Flow Phenomena to New Methods of Analysis" was Dr. Yoshihito Suzuki (Yamanashi University). In this section, most of the talks were concerned about flow injection analysis, which is one of the currently developing fields.

The coordinator of "New Direction in Analytical Chemistry towards Life Science" was Dr. Hiroshi Nakamura (The University of Tokyo). He emphasized in his introductory remarks that analytical chemistry had already been correlated with life science in some way, but this symposium particularly had reflected the modern trend of activity of analytical chemistry in life science. In the reviewing time, he commented that the normal methods of analysis which had been adopted by the analytical chemists might not be applicable to the cases of the actual clinical field, and that efforts to develop new methods should be made.

Dr. Yoshinori Sugitani (Tsukuba University) worked as the coordinator for the section of "Methods of Measurement in Analytical Chemistry". In this section, many innovating techniques were presented, including conversion electron Mössbauer spectrometry, EXAFS, optoacoustic spectrometry, chemiluminescence, ICP, etc. In the review discussion, the importance to apply the combination of different measurement techniques,

Table 1 Topical subjects in the symposia of the past 5 years

1982 June 17, 18, Yamagata	
1) Trace analyses in environmental and geochemical samples.	
2) Separation method with partition of two phases, especially solvent extraction and chromatography.	
1983 June 6, 7, Nagasaki	
1) Separation and detection for highly sensitive, selective and rapid analyses.	
2) Development of organic analytical agents.	
(a) Organic analysis. (b) Inorganic analysis.	
1984 July 26, 27, Muroran	
1) Reliability, rapidity and increases of sensitivity in atomic spectrometry.	
2) Derivatization in chromatography.	
3) Utilization of surfactants in analytical chemistry.	
1985 July 10, 11, Koriyama	
1) Trace analyses of biological and environmental samples.	
2) New technology in separation in analytical chemistry.	
1986 June 6, 7, Maebashi	
1) Application of flow phenomena to new methods of analysis.	
2) New directions in analytical chemistry towards life science.	
3) Methods of measurement in analytical chemistry.	

keen call for the new techniques, or the new instruments were pointed out. As mentioned by Dr. Sugitani in his introductory remarks, chemistry has two phases of synthesis and identification or evaluation of materials. Analytical chemistry takes the responsibility for the latter. It covers a wide range of subjects as its concern.

Table 1 collects the themes of topical subjects over the past 5 years. In the present symposium, comparing with the past symposia, the attendants could understand more clearly about the present and future aspects of analytical chemistry by hearing the introductory remarks and review on each topical section.

Another characteristics of this symposium is the contributions of young scientists. Sixty-seven student members participated to the symposium. The organizing committee encouraged their attendance by setting the admission fee for them at half of that on ordinary member. Chairpersons for the talks and the coordinators for the topical talks were also chosen from rather young members, which created a freshness in this symposium. All the attendants enjoyed the symposium and appreciated the hospitality of the people of Gunma University.

(Received July 18, 1986)