

## 1967 GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCES

	Colby Junior College, New London, New Hampshire	New Hampton School, New Hampton, New Hampshire	Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, New Hampshire	Tilton School, Tilton, New Hampshire	Proctor Academy, Andover, New Hampshire	Crystal Inn, Crystal Mountain, Washington
June 12-16	Hydrocarbon chemistry	Molecular electronic spectroscopy	Science and Technology of bio-materials	Animal cells and viruses		
June 19-23	Nuclear chemistry	Nucleic acids	Magnetic resonance	Biochemistry and agriculture	Lasers in medicine and biology	
June 26-30	Catalysis	Proteins	Cell structure and metabolism		Lipid metabolism	
July 3-7	Polymers	Coal science	Coenzymes and metabolic pathways	Chemistry of heterocyclic compounds	Lysosomes	Environmental sciences: air
July 10-14	Textiles	Statistics in chemistry and chemical engineering	Chemistry and structure of bones and teeth	Chemistry and physics of space	Biomathematics	Chemistry and physics of isotopes
July 17-21	Scientific information problems in research	Radiation chemistry	Physical metallurgy	Chemistry and physics of coatings and films	Chemistry and metallurgy of semiconductors	Molecular pathology
July 24-28	Corrosion	Organic reactions and processes	Chemistry at interfaces	Microbiological deterioration	Chemistry and physics of paper	Dynamics of quantum solids and liquids
July 31-Aug. 4	Elastomers	Steroids and other natural products	Solid state studies in ceramics	Nuclear structure physics	Chemistry and physics of liquids	Medicinal chemistry
August 7-11	Separation and purification	Inorganic chemistry	Toxicology and safety evaluations	Organic photochemistry	*	Plasma physics
August 14-18	Food and nutrition	Analytical chemistry	Chemistry and physics of solids	Photonuclear reactions	*	Laser interaction with matter
August 21-25	Ion exchange	Geochemistry	Chemistry and physics of cellular materials	Thin films	*	
Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Cancer	Science of adhesion	Chemistry of molten salts	Glass	*	

\* Week not available.

THE 1967 Gordon Research Conferences will be held in New Hampshire and Washington, between June 12 and September 1, 1967. Each conference will run from Monday to Friday each week, with meetings in the mornings and evenings. Application forms for the conferences can be obtained from W. G. Parks, Director, Gordon Research Conferences, Department of Chemistry, University of

Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881, and all application forms should be returned at least two months before the date of the conference. The conferences are intended to bring together scientists for discussions in the latest developments in each field, and not for the review of known information.

A NEW journal entitled "Thin Solid Films", designed to cover all aspects of the science and technology of thin solid films, is now being published by Elsevier Publishing Company.

THE thirty-second Parsons Memorial Lecture entitled "The Measurement and Control of Small Displacements", organized by the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, will be given by Professor R. V. Jones on April 24 at the Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern. Further information can be obtained from the Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

ERRATUM: In the communication entitled "Production of Oat Callus and its Susceptibility to a Plant Parasitic Nematode" by Dr. J. M. Webster (*Nature*, 212, 1472; 1966), the third sentence in the second paragraph should read "Glucose (20 gm/l.) or the same quantity of sucrose was used . . .".

ERRATUM. In the article entitled "Metabolism of Methylcarbamate Insecticides by the NADPH<sub>2</sub>-requiring Enzyme System from Houseflies" by M. Tsukamoto and J. E. Casida (*Nature*, 213, 49; 1967), the following corrections should be made: page 49, left-hand column, line 18, mammalian liver microsome-reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH<sub>2</sub>) system; line 23, the liver microsome-NADPH<sub>2</sub> system; line 26, insect microsome-NADPH<sub>2</sub> systems; line 37, an insect enzyme-NADPH<sub>2</sub> system. Page 49, right-hand column, line 14, the abdomen-NADPH<sub>2</sub> system; line 17, twenty-four insecticides and synergists labelled with carbon-14 were investigated. Page 50, right-hand column, line 59, the fly abdomen-NADPH<sub>2</sub> system; line 67, O-O-dimethyl. Page 51, left-hand column, line 16, (+)-trans-chrysanthemumate; line 17, allethronyl; line 21, the fly abdomen-NADPH<sub>2</sub> system; line 25, (5-allyl-1-methoxy . . .). Page 51, right-hand column, line 2, chemicals; line 13, homogenate or microsomes of the resistant fly abdomen. Reference 7, *The Physiology of Insecta*.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## Economic Geochemistry

SIR,—In the note on January 7 (*Nature*, 213, 7; 1967), the statement that geochemistry has limited application and is still struggling for recognition is entirely erroneous.

The facts of the matter are that since the Second World War geochemical techniques have developed to the point that they are standard exploration practice in most parts of the world. At a conservative estimate, geochemical samples are being collected for prospecting purposes at a rate well in excess of 3,000,000 a year in the West, and probably nearer 10,000,000 a year in the Soviet Union.

Mineral discoveries, wherein geochemical prospecting has played a vital role, include base metal deposits in Eastern Canada and important copper mineralizations in Central Africa and the South-west Pacific area, to mention but a few.

In the academic field, applied geochemistry is now included in any comprehensive course of training in mineral exploration and a number of research centres exist in both government establishments and in the universities at home and overseas.

The foregoing in no way implies any criticism of the technical publication you mention, which gives a most interesting description of a novel method of prospecting for use in a particular type of terrain. I am quite certain that the authors would in no way subscribe to the view expressed in that part of your note concerned with the current status of applied geochemistry in general.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN S. WEBB

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Imperial College of Science and Technology.