Mendel Club

Aragona Shellenberg
Del Zio, Pugliese, Ephraim, Baiardi, McKaba, Ierardi, Kelly.
Rogers, Lagomarsino, McNicholas, Prof. Corlis, Walsh.

GREGOR JOHANN MENDEL, the Austrian monk and naturalist whose experiments on plant hybridization laid the foundation for the modern work in genetics was a poor, peasant priest who was even denied the dignity of a full-fledged teacher. His marked success in determining the laws of heredity was due not only to his unusual keenness in observation and clarity in reasoning, but also to the very notable improvements in his method which reduced the labyrinth of data to a workable basis. Mendel's humility, patience, persistence, and true experimental approach to his biological problems make him the appropriate standard bearer for the biological club of St. Francis College.

The pursuits of the Mendel group were initiated last September when John Walsh and Joseph McNicholas gave a detailed consideration to cancerous growth and skin tumors induced in laboratory animals with subsequent treatment with various strains of staphylococcus. From then on each of the Fall term meetings featured a report on some phase of experimental embryology. Ed McKaba presented his case for the determination of the occurrence of meiosis to the stage of the primary spermatocyte. George Rogers made his contribution with an address on the formation of the little known terminal nerve and its relation to the olfactory nerve and to the brain. John Baiardi followed with a discussion of Hofbauer's cells. Irrepressible Ed McKaba, whose ontogenetic recapitulation of phylogeny first brought his blossoming genius to public notice, returned to stun his audience with a dissertation on the pars tuberalis of the hypophysis, which has been morphologically and histologically, but not physiologically distinguished. John Walsh delighted the following conclave with his views on the Ultimo branchial bodies. The last meeting heard Joseph McNicholas defend his findings on the inversion of the retina in vertebrates.

Attention Frosh!

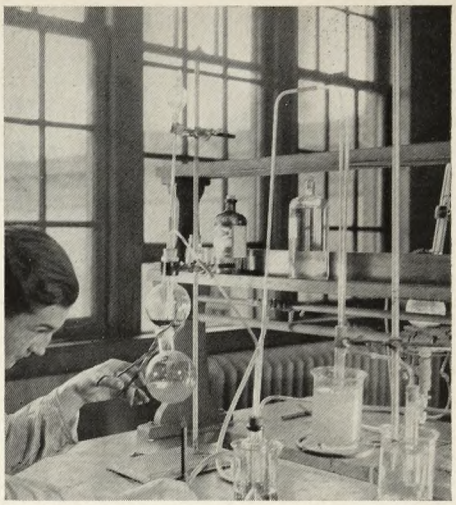
In the field of improved technique, the members with careful direction from Prof. Corlis, the club moderator, devised new methods in stereoprojection and microprojection. At present the group is engaged in developing a more efficient arterial canula to expedite researches on blood pressure.

During the past year the Mendel Club destinies were controlled by Joseph McNicholas, president; George Rogers, vice-president; John Walsh, secretary; and Nat Ephraim, treasurer.

AFTER the first year of rearrangement of the Chemistry department, in which Frederick J. Kenny, Ph.D., replaced Gerald C. McDonald as professor of chemistry, and Wilfrid J. Badgley, '36 was added to the staff, the year 1937-38 signified awakened activity in the program of the Indicator Club. Under the tutelage of Dr. Kenny and with the assistance of Mr. Badgley, the constitution was revised to allow greater opportunity for supplementing the scientific knowledge gained in the lecture rooms. It was deemed wise, in view of past experience, to limit the membership to upper classmen only, since an audience unacquainted with Chemistry fundamentals would limit discussion on new or complex discoveries in the field. With this renewed plan the club embarked on an auspicious campaign in which student speakers, expert professors, and commercial chemists were invited to address the group.

The year began early in October with the usual elections. George Rudkin '39 was chosen president; John Kelly '38, vice-president; John Walsh '38, secretary; Nat Ephraim '38, treasurer; and Edwin McKaba '38, executive member.

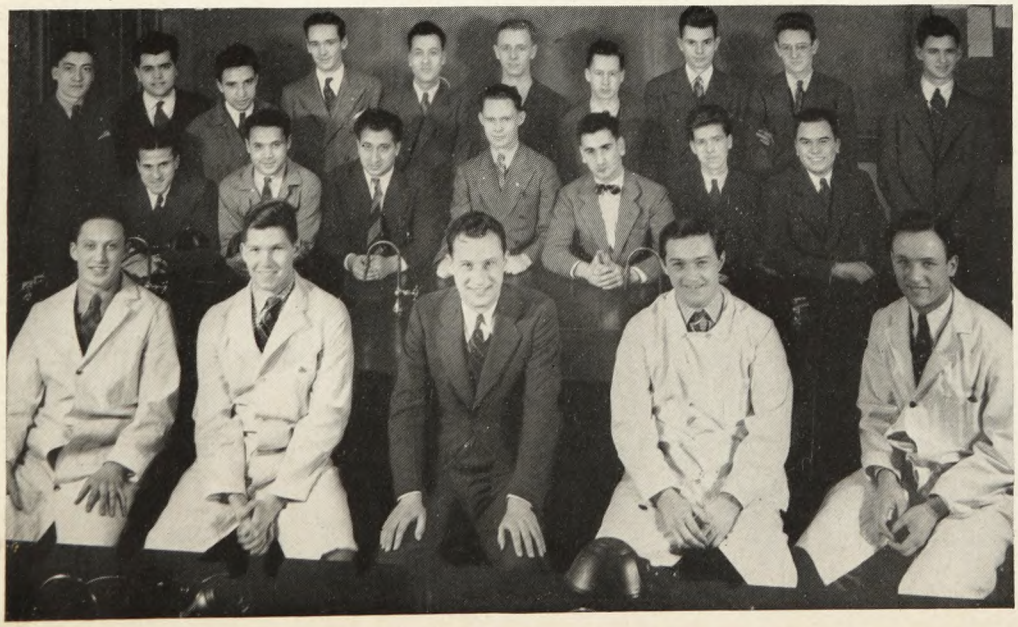
Succeeding sessions brought about the completion of the original plan. One occasion brought Messrs. Freimuth and Umberger, assistants to New York's toxicologist, Dr. Gettler, to illustrate the application of chemistry to crime detection. The detection of blood on clothing, and of alcohols and other poisons on the brain was discussed. Tales of various crime clues obtained through toxicological analyses were narrated to give some idea of the part chemistry plays in the crusade against crime. The lecture was adequately rounded out by a fine exhibit of some first hand evidence used in past cases.



Before the Explosion

Another session of very great interest was one at which Mr. Feuss of the Johns-Manville Corporation presented a motion picture depicting the story of the diatom and its importance in present day chemistry. The biology of the various diatoms and formation of skeletal deposits during the miocene era some fifty million years ago, contemporary methods of mining and refining, the Lompoc deposit today and its use in filtration techniques — subjects such as these proved of special interest to the future chemists. In all these cases profitable opportunities were forthcoming to Indicator men to interview personally the speakers, to discuss various views in the field, and to outline the possibility of future advances in the specialized studies under discussion.

Baiardi, Ierardi, Pugliese, Zapp, Grosso, Donohue, Murtha, Avvocato, Burke, Gallagher.
Del Zio, Aragona, Giglio, McNicholas, McKaba, Murphy, Paganini.
Ephraim, Rudkin, Prof. Badgley, Kelly, Walsh.



Indicator Club