NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MICROCHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

Under the auspices of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi and the University of Mysore, Mysore, the Department of Post-graduate Studies and Research in Chemistry, University of Mysore, organised a National Symposium on Microchemical Techniques from 20th to 22nd February 1978. Over 100 eminent scientists and research workers from the Indian Universities and National Laboratories participated in the three days' Symposium.

On 20th February 1978, the Symposium was inaugurated by Shri D. V. Urs, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore and the Key-note address setting the theme of the Symposium was given by Prof. R. D. Tiwari, University of Allahabad. Plenary Lecture was delivered by Prof. G. Gopala Rao of Andhra University in the morning and invited talk was given by Prof. R. S. Subrahmanya in the afternoon. Dr. P. K. Vijayaraghavan, Director, Defence Food Research Laboratory, Mysore, chaired the paper reading session in the morning and the afternoon session was presided over by Prof. V. R. Krishnan. During these sessions sixteen research papers employing microchemical techniques were presented which generated great interest and lovely discussion by enthusiastic participants. The topics covered by the papers included ring colorimetry, reverse isotope dilution analysis and spectrophotometric determination of traces of elements and compounds.

On 21st February 1978, Dr. M. Sankar Das delivered an invited lecture explaining the significance of neutron activation as a microprobe technique which can be introduced in a university chemical laboratory for a study of samples of interest in geocosmochemistry, archaeology, forensic medicine and life sciences. Prof. N. Appala Raju and Prof. S. P. Srivastava chaired the morning and afternoon sessions respectively during which, 18 papers were presented. The deliberations focussed the importance of microchemical techniques in the determination of microquantities of elements, drugs and sulphur dioxide in foods.

On the final day, Prof. V. Panduranga Rao delivered a plenary lecture on the role of mixed complexes in chemical analysis. Twelve papers on polarographic, chromatographic, amperometric and ion-exchange techniques were presented during the morning session under the Chairmanship of Prof. N. Venkateswara Rao. In the afternoon session six papers on TLC and Cyclic Voltametry were presented under the Chairmanship of Shri C. P. Natarajan. Attention was focussed on the issues of vital importance in microchemical techniques.

The closing session was presided over by Prof. G. Gopala Rao on 22nd February 1978. Many participants expressed that the Symposium was very useful and gave them an opportunity to discuss the various facets of microchemical techniques. It was resolved to request the University Grants Commission to sponsor a similar National Symposium once a year

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AWARD OF RESEARCH DEGREES

Gauhati University has awarded the Ph.D. degree in *Botany* to *Smt. Sandhyajyoti Das* of *Botanical* Survey of India, Shillong.

Karnatak University, Dharwad, has awarded the Ph.D. degree in Zoology to Sri Bhuti Gangadhar Shankarappa.

Osmania University, Hyderabad, has awarded the Ph.D. degree in Geology to Sri S. V. S. R. Vara Prasad.

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda has awarded Ph.D. degree in Bio-chemistry to Sri Pradip Narayan Akolkar; Ph.D. degree in Chemistry to Sri Rajnikant Rasiklal Shah.

Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, has awarded Ph.D. degree in Physics to Sri Ajay Kumar Bisoi and Sri Satish Kumar; Ph.D. degree in Chemistry to Sri Bhagabat Nanda, Sri Chitrananda Nanda and Smt. Nivedita Mishra.

ERRATA

With reference to the Article 'Reminiscences relating to the discovery of the Raman Effect' published in CURRENT SCIENCE, March 20, 1978, Page 194, Line 5, the word 'molecule' must read as 'nucleus'.

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