

20

257 Chemistry Building, Jan. 5, 1922.

My dear Mr. Stephens,

The clipping which I am returning, is approximately right.

The course was started here as three lectures to the Chemistry Club, in 1912, given as six lectures to the junior class the next year, and I have taught the course beginning 1914-15.

It is required of all juniors in chemistry and chemical engineering. Originally it was modelled in part after a course at Worcester Polytechnic, but the library feature is stressed here rather than the history, so that it may claim to be unique. Several other schools have since installed similar courses, taught in general by chemists not by the library person, and in some of these the laboratory manual used here has been purchased as a help; how much it has been actually used I do not know.

The notes were mimeographed up to 1919; 500 copies were printed that fall September, and all were gone by January, 1921.

Some were ordered from Australia and England, while the roll of purchasers in this country did include most of the large chemical firms.

This is no doubt in part due to the same fact that caused the man who had been interviewing some industrial men to inquire "Are all chief chemists from Illinois? Seems to me all that I find are".

No special advertising has been done except sending of copies for review to journals whose readers might be expected to be interested.

About 200 of the 1000 of the second edition have been disposed of to date.

Various college and city libraries where the technical collection is emphasized have bought it and some of these as well as several of the chemical firms have added the second edition, though they had the first.

The original 49 pages, twelve lectures, are now 80 pages, in sixteen lectures; the sections form each the basis for one class meeting and problems to be looked up in the library are assigned each time.

It occurs to me that the easiest explanation is the book, so here is a copy.

Yours truly,

~~R. F.~~ Marion C. Sparks
R. F. Ingersoll

Student just showed me
a very flattering review in
Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry
(English)
Dec. 15 1921, p. 451 TR, whole half column.

News

University of Illinois Alumni Association
Urbana

358 Arden Bldg.

CHEM. LITERATURE ONLY
COURSE OF KIND IN U. S.

OCT 29 1921

Chemistry 92, taught here, is the only course of its kind in chemical literature in American colleges. Its purpose is to give chemists a knowledge of the literature of chemistry so they will know where to find their information should they be asked the composition of chewing gum, or the best alloy for airplanes.

The course includes instruction in public speaking, library science, French and German.

The text book used is in no other college chemistry library. Miss Marion Sparks, librarian, compiled the laboratory manual. It was first published two years ago as a 50 page pamphlet. The 50 copies of the first edition were disposed of in China, England and Australia. This year the manual contains 80 pages.

first

7

500

major and minor
Miss Sparks,
now written to physical faculty
chemical students

Are all these statements correct? see letter

Paul Systers
revisions

NO; see

going to
Went to
committee, went to

CHEM. LITERATURE ONLY COURSE OF KIND IN U. S.

[Stamp: OCT. 29 1921]

Chemistry 92, taught here, is the ~~only~~ [handwritten: first] course of its kind in chemical literature in American colleges. Its purpose is to give chemists a knowledge of the literature of chemistry so they will know where to find their information should they be asked the composition of chewing gum, or the best alloy for airplanes.

The course includes instruction in public speaking, library science, French and German.

The text book used is in no other college chemistry library. Miss Marion Sparks, librarian, compiled the laboratory manual. It was first published two years ago as a 50 page pamphlet. The 50 copies of the first edition were disposed of in China, England and Australia. This year the manual contains 80 pages.

[See the original scan for other notes Sparks made about this article.]