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By M. Y. SHAWARBI, Fouad I University of Cairo. This book provides a valuable source of information, instruction, and reference on the advances that chemists are making in solving soil problems. Containing an extensive bibliography on the literature of soil chemistry and its use, this book includes information on the general composition of the soil, the biochemical processes in soils and soil organic matter, soil acidity and lime practice, and soil conservation. 1951. Approx. 417 pages. $5.00.

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A. J. NERAD
Research Laboratory

Task of Appliances: Looking at the entire field of products which we call domestic appliances, it appears that they have undertaken and are doing a remarkable task. We are in a new kind of world in which domestic service has vanished with only a few remaining exceptions to prove this a rule. In the early history the purpose of the appliances was to improve the quality of domestic work and make toil somewhat less arduous. Now they have the added purpose of saving domestic labor to a high degree. It is amazing to consider how much has been accomplished in this direction.

The gradual injection of controls and integrators into the appliances has uniquely given them the equivalent of a thinking apparatus. By ordinary development processes, results have been achieved which appear as results of wizardry. The appliances not only think but act accordingly. Thus a dishwasher measures a given quantity of water and immediately at the right moment closes the valve. Clothes washers are in use which do a large number of complicated tasks in proper sequence. No human could follow as simply or quickly the electric blanket control in its compensation for changes in room temperature, for it would require adding or taking off blankets at a rate that is too trying and all too difficult to follow.

There are some unique advantages in this revolution in the home. You can't hire one-tenth of a domestic servant, but you can obtain appliances one at a time. It is unthinkable to have domestic help 24 hours a day and seven days a week in these times, nor is it possible to suddenly obtain such help at any instant. Even in the good old days this could not be accomplished, but our present appliances are ready at any instant for use, and we need not have the slightest qualm at any time in their use. Some of them, like the oil and gas furnace controls, receive their instructions long ahead for long periods of time, and with less fault or omission than human beings they do the tasks once required by people in the house.

The appliances have taken upon themselves a very serious part in our life, indeed. It is thus easy to forecast that, in the light of future developments, theirs will be a firm place in the household. The appliances are not made yet which can take the place of a baby sitter. But some of them make the baby sitter's task less difficult and more pleasant. The future will also find that, to fill the lack of an appliance which will not only prepare the meal but plan it, is an engaging problem. It does not require too much dreaming to visualize a computer which turns out the most varied, healthiest, and most economical menu. Even without turning to the achievements of the future, it is easy to see why there has been such tremendous growth in the domestic appliance industry.

A.I.E.E. Conference
Columbus, Ohio
May 15, 1951

F. M. CLARK
General Engineering Laboratory

Insulation: The history of electric power is a story of repeated demands for higher and higher blocks of power generation and transmission. Increasing power loads lead to increasing voltages of transmission for technical and economic reasons. Insulating air was soon replaced by silk or cotton wire coverings, sometimes coated or impregnated with varnish or waxes. Later, natural rubber jackets were applied.

 Perhaps the first real contribution of chemistry to the science of electrical insulation was the application of vulcanized rubber as insulation for the conductor. But with continued demands for the transfer of larger and larger blocks of power, the inadequacy of available insulation soon became apparent.

To provide the engineer with means for adequately meeting the growing demands for electric power has been the opportunity for chemistry. It has met this opportunity and responsibility with a myriad of new products and processes and with the modification and improvement of older materials and processes.

General Electric Review
February, 1951

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August 24, 1951
Hotel Reservations
118th AAAS Meeting
Philadelphia, December 26-31, 1951

The list of hotels and the reservation coupon below are for your convenience in making your hotel room reservation in Philadelphia. Please send your application, not to any hotel directly, but to the AAAS Housing Bureau in Philadelphia and thereby avoid delay and confusion. The experienced Housing Bureau will make assignments promptly; a confirmation will be sent you in two weeks or less. Share a room with a colleague if you wish to keep down expenses. Mail your application now to secure your first choice of desired accommodations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOTELS AND RATES PER DAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hotel*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADELPHIA★</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARCLAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>BELLEVUE–STRATFORD★</td>
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<tr>
<td>BENJAMIN FRANKLIN★</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRAKE</td>
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<td>ESSEX</td>
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<td>JOHN BARTRAM★</td>
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<td>PENN SHERATON</td>
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<td>RITZ–CARLTON★</td>
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<td>ROBERT MORRIS</td>
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<td>ST. JAMES</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYLVANIA★</td>
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<tr>
<td>WARWICK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cots added to a room are $2.50 each; dormitory style rooms (for 5 or more) are $3.50 per person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

★ Hotels starred have sessions in their public rooms. For a list of the headquarters of each participating society and section, please see Association Affairs, Science, August 24, or The Scientific Monthly, September.

---

THIS IS YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION COUPON

AAAS Housing Bureau
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Date of Application ............... 

Please reserve the following accommodations for the 118th Meeting of the AAAS:

**TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION DESIRED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Room(s)</th>
<th>Desired Rate</th>
<th>Maximum Rate</th>
<th>Number in Party</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double Room(s)</td>
<td>Desired Rate</td>
<td>Maximum Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twin-Bedded Room(s)</td>
<td>Desired Rate</td>
<td>Maximum Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suite(s)</td>
<td>Desired Rate</td>
<td>Maximum Rate</td>
<td>Sharing this room will be:</td>
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(Enumerate persons here and attach list giving name and address of each person, including yourself)

**CHOICE OF HOTEL**

First Choice ................. Second Choice .................. Third Choice ..................

**DATE OF ARRIVAL** ....... **DEPARTURE DATE** .......

(These must be indicated)

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2. You receive the General Program early in December in ample time, unhurriedly, to decide among the events and the sessions that you particularly wish to attend.

3. Your name will be in the Visible Directory the first hour of the first day of the meetings, since it will be posted in Washington as soon as received. (Hotel address can be added later, if necessary.)

4. Advance Registrants have the same privileges of receiving a map and directory of points of interest in Philadelphia, literature, radio broadcast tickets, etc. At the convenience of Advance Registrants, these will be distributed from the Main Registration in the Municipal Auditorium—the location of the full-scale Annual Exposition of Science and Industry, the Visible Directory, the AAAS Science Theatre, and the Biologists’ Smoker.

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   (Please print or typewrite)

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4. OFFICE OR HOME ADDRESS ...........................................................................
   (For receipt of Program and Badge)

5. YOUR FIELD OF INTEREST ............................................................................

6. CONVENTION ADDRESS ..................................................................................
   (If not known now may be added later)

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August 24, 1951
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