

- 189 Survey of Air Pollution Research in Europe. A. C. Stern.
Am. Ind. Hyg. Assn. J. 21, 459-465 (Dec. 1960).

The air of European metropolises tends to be more visibly polluted than that of comparable American cities, a difference most likely attributable to the widespread availability of natural gas in America. This has pointed the need for both air pollution research and control in each of the European nations. The total air pollution research effort of Europe is comparable in size and scope to that in America. In America, the results of work in all states and provinces are rapidly disseminated at frequent national conferences and seminars whereas in Europe interchange of information is impeded by language and political barriers that tend to dilute the large total effort by requiring each nation to duplicate much of the same work.

-- Author's conclusions

- 190 Application of Gas Chromatographic Methods for Air Pollution Studies. L. S. Ettre.
J. Air Pollution Control Assn. 11, 34-43 (Jan. 1961).

The modifications on conventional gas chromatography apparatus are described which allows the use of gas chromatography in air pollution studies. The newest developments of supersensitive chromatography are described with special respect to their importance in trace analysis. The construction, and operation of a new instrument based on the flame ionization principles is detailed.

-- Author's summary

- 191 A Method for Analyzing the Trend in Visibility. G. C. Holzworth and J. A. Maga.
J. Air Pollution Control Assn. 10, 430-435, 449 (Dec. 1960).

A method of analysis has been introduced for the treatment of visibility trends. This method is based on the assumption that with a trend of deteriorating visibility, the resultant changes (with time) in the per cent frequencies of visibilities in given ranges shift downward to each next longer range of visibility. Data for Bakersfield and Sacramento indicate a trend of deteriorating visibility. At both airport sites poor visibilities are shown to be more frequent with air flow from nearby urban complexes than from rural areas. This relationship, together with a rapidly expanding population, is further evidence for a trend of declining visibility throughout the Central Valley. In addition to pollution from population centers there are other sources whose effects on visibility are more difficult to analyze: for instance, open burning practices, particularly with respect to agricultural waste elimination, range land clearance, and uncontrolled fires. A relationship between wind speed and visibility indicates that with intermediate speeds there is a smaller per cent frequency of poor visibilities than with both higher and lower wind speeds. This is interpreted as due to dusts becoming air-borne at higher wind speeds, and atmospheric dispersion of pollutants being reduced at lower wind speeds. Application of the method of trend analysis to Los Angeles visibility summaries indicates a declining visibility trend prior to controls on certain emissions. After such controls the trend is negligible. The significance of the latter trend is that it occurred while the population was growing rapidly. -- Authors' conclusions

- 192 The Biological Scientist in an Air Pollution Control Program. H. A. James.
J. Air Pollution Control Assn. 10, 450-452, 467 (Dec. 1960).

The biological scientist in an air pollution control agency is becoming of greater service as the larger districts are being formed which embrace agricultural areas. While it is not an altogether new role in history, it has often been neglected. His presence on the staff provides the air pollution control agency staff with a liaison to agriculture and public health, as well as an information source immediately at hand. His training in the life science fields not only allows him to help understand the biological problems, but also allows him to communicate these to the engineer. In the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District, this position is filled by a biostatistician. Here the statistical duties are often not too sharply differentiated from the biological ones. However, these range from attempting to diagnose air pollution damage on orchids to the development of a mechanized punch card information retrieval system.

-- Author's conclusions

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