

balance table designed by Chief Chemist J. A. Archer. Built along "lazy susan" lines the table permits samples to move on three revolving tiers making it possible for five chemists to work on the samples at once.

The new laboratory includes a spectrophotometer for potash determinations. Formerly more than five hours were required to measure one sample—a job the spectrophotometer can perform in 45 minutes.

CSC Awards Contract for Nitroparaffin Plant in La.

Commercial Solvents has announced awarding of the contract to build its large-scale nitroparaffin plant to Ford, Bacon & Davis Construction Corp. of Monroe, La. The plant, to be built near Sterlington, La., at a total cost of \$5 million, is expected to go on stream next August. Construction has already started.

The company's existing small-scale nitroparaffin plant at Peoria is to be enlarged also.

American Potash to Make Lithium Chemicals in Texas

American Potash & Chemical has announced plans to manufacture lithium

chemicals at a new plant to be built near San Antonio, Tex. The plant will be owned by a newly formed company, American Lithium Chemicals, Inc., 50.1% of whose stock is held by American Potash and the rest by Bikita Minerals (Private) Ltd. The latter company will supply lithium ores from its reserves in Southern Rhodesia, Africa.

Oldbury Opens Sodium Chlorate Plant in Mississippi

Oldbury Electrochemical officially opened its sodium chlorate plant in Columbus, Miss., on Oct. 27. The plant has been under construction for two years and cost almost \$4 million. The company expects that the plant will be well located to serve industrial and agricultural users in the South and Southwest. Facilities for phosphorus pentasulfide are being built there also.

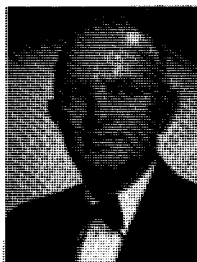
People

Peterson Succeeds Coke as Assistant Sec'y of Agriculture

Ervin L. Peterson has been appointed to succeed J. Earl Coke as assistant secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Peterson's appointment will become effective on Nov. 15 and Mr. Coke's resignation is to become effective Nov. 13. The new Assistant Secretary has been director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture since 1943 and was a dairy farmer from 1931 to 1940. As assistant secretary he will be in charge of the department's work in the field of federal-states relations, in which are located USDA's conservation, research, and educational activities. Mr. Coke, who has been on leave from the directorship of the California agricultural extension service since 1953, will return to his work in California.

G. W. Irving Becomes Deputy Administrator of ARS

George W. Irving, Jr., has been appointed deputy administrator in charge of research for the Agricultural Research Service, USDA. He first joined the Department of Agriculture, in 1928, leaving in 1935 for a teaching and research fellowship at George Washington University. He later worked at Cornell and the Rockefeller Institute, returning to USDA in 1942 as a chemist for the Southern Regional Research



Laboratory. He went to the Beltsville, Md., research center in 1944 and became assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry in 1947, heading research on oil seeds and animal products. After USDA was reorganized, Dr. Irving became head of the biological sciences division of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Dr. Irving is well known for his work on plant growth regulators and the biochemistry of plant disease resistance. His work led to the isolation of the antibiotic tomatine.

Harold Mazza, research process engineer for American Potash & Chemical Corp. at Trona, Calif., has been appointed assistant director of research for the company and will direct activities of the new products division.

W. F. George, former district sales manager for Hooker Electrochemical, has joined Witco Chemical as special assistant president to the president.

Albert S. Allen of the Du Pont Film department has received the 1954 Hauck Produce Packaging Award for his "significant and outstanding contributions to the produce packaging industry."

Gerald Litwack, who recently completed postdoctoral research at the Sorbonne, has been appointed assistant professor of agricultural biochemistry at the College of Agriculture, Rutgers University.

William B. House has left National Alfalfa Dehydrating & Milling Co., Lamar, Colo., to join the staff of the Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City as a research chemist.

John Geraci has been promoted from plant manager of Gallowhur Chemical Corp. to vice president of the company in charge of production and development. He is located at the Ossining, N.Y., plant.

Deaths

William Lloyd Evans, well-known carbohydrate chemist, former ACS president, and professor emeritus of Ohio State University, died Oct. 18 in Columbus, Ohio, at the age of 83. He had retired as head of the Ohio State department of chemistry in 1941. Dr. Evans was the coauthor of several chemical texts.

Arthur G. McCall, soil scientist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service from 1936 to 1944, died in Olney, Md., on Oct. 19 at the age of 79. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Ohio State, where he was later professor of Agronomy for 12 years. He was also professor of geology and soils at the University of Maryland.

CALENDAR

Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association. Montebello, Que. Oct. 28-29.

American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America. St. Paul, Minn. Nov. 8-12.

National Fertilizer Association. Hollywood Beach Hotel, Hollywood, Fla. Nov. 10-12.

Ohio Pesticide Institute. Columbus, Ohio. Nov. 17-18.

Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association. New York. Dec. 6-8.

North Central Weed Control Conference. Gardner Hotel, Fargo, N. D. Dec. 6-9.

American Institute of Chemical Engineers. New York. Dec. 12-15.

Southwest Regional Meeting, American Chemical Society, Fort Worth, Tex. Dec. 2-4.

Agricultural Ammonia Institute. Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La. Dec. 5-8.

Entomological Society of America. Houston, Tex. Dec. 6-9.

Southern Weed Control Conference. Soreno Hotel, St. Petersburg, Fla. Jan. 17-19, 1955.