spite of these minor physical shortcomings and the questionable historical motives, the Aldrich Company must be enthusiastically applauded for making this classic available again to both chemists and historians.

William B. Jensen, University of Cincinnati

References and Notes

1. W. J. Wiswesser, "Johann Josef Loschmidt (1821-1895): A Forgotten Genius", *Aldrichim. Acta*, **1989**, *22*, 17-19. This article also gives instructions on how to order.

2. A. N. Meldrum, "The Development of the Atomic Theory: Dalton's Chemical Theory", *Manchester Mem.*, **1911**, *55(6)*, 1-18.

3. Quoted in reference 2, p. 9.

TRANSLATIONS

The Answer to Last Issue's Puzzle

The reaction between "cuperous nitre" and tin described by Cavallo was discovered by the British chemist Bryan Higgins in 1773 (1). Though the editor was unable to find mention of an equation describing the reaction in the standard reference books, the most likely representation is:

$$Sn(s) + Cu(NO_3)_2{\cdot}3H_2O(s) \rightarrow SnO(s) + CuO(s) + 3H_2O(l) + 2NO_2(g)$$

Cuperous nitre is, of course, copper dinitrate trihydrate and the observation that "copious nitrous fumes" are emitted, as well as the facts of thermodynamics, make it likely that the nitrate ion, rather than the copper ion, is the primary oxidizing agent. $\Delta H°$ for this reaction is -220.97 kcal/mol, $\Delta S°$ is 189.2 cal/K mol and $\Delta G°$ at 298K is -277.4 kcal/mol. An alternative reaction with $Cu(OH)_2(s)$, $Sn(OH)_2(s)$, $NO_2(g)$ and only 1 mole of H_2O as products is slightly more exothermic but less favorable overall due to a smaller entropy change. The moisture in the copper nitrate is necessary to kinetically initiate the reaction and the folding of the foil minimizes heat loss to the environment, thus helping to make the reaction thermally self-accelerating.

A recent twist on the use of copper nitrate as an oxidizing agent is the development of a new laboratory reagent called *claycop*, which is short for clay-supported copper nitrate (2).

References and Notes

1. B. Higgins, "Actual Fire and Detonation Produced by Contact of Tin Foil with the Salt Composed of Copper and the Nitreous Acid", *Phil. Trans.*, **1773**, *63*, 137.

2. P. Laszlo and A. Cornélis, "CLAYCOP: A User Friendly Oxidizing and Nitrating Reagent", *Aldrichim. Acta*, **1988**, *21*, 97-103.

AWARDS

The Dexter Award

The 1989 Dexter Award for outstanding accomplishment in the history of chemistry has been awarded to Dr. Dean Stanley Tarbell of Vanderbilt University. The award, which consists of a cash prize of $2000 and an engraved plaque, was presented to Dr. Tarbell at the Fall National Meeting of the American

Dr. Dean Stanley Tarbell

Chemical Society in Miami Beach.

Born in Hancock, New Hampshire, in 1913, Dr. Tarbell received both his undergraduate and graduate training in chemistry from Harvard University, taking a Ph.D. in organic chemistry under Dr. Paul Bartlett in 1937. Most of his academic career (1938-1967) has been spent as an organic chemist at the University of Rochester. In 1967 he became Distinguished Professor at Vanderbilt University and Professor Emeritus in 1981. Dr. Tarbell's work in the history of chemistry, which has been done in collaboration with his wife, Dr. Ann Tracy Tarbell, has largely centered on the development of organic chemistry in the United States, and has resulted in numerous articles and two books: a biography of Roger Adams (*Roger Adams; Scientist and Statesman*), published in 1981, and *Essays on the History of Organic Chemistry in the United States*, published in 1986.

The Division would at this time also like to solicit nominations for the 1990 Dexter award. Nominations should include a complete vita for the nominee, consisting of biographical data, educational background, awards and honors, publications, and presentations and other services to the profession; a nominating letter summarizing the nominee's achievements in the field of the history of chemistry and citing unique contributions which merit a major award; and at least two seconding

letters. Copies of no more than three publications may also be included if available. All nominations should be sent to Dr. William B. Jensen, Secretary, The Division of the History of Chemistry - ACS, Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 45221 by 1 January 1990. It should be emphasized that, though the award is administered by an American organization, it is international in scope and previous winners have included historians and chemists from Germany, France, Holland, Hungary, and Great Britain.

The Outstanding Paper Award

As of 1990, the Division's Outstanding Paper Award has been changed from the best paper presented at a general session to the best paper published in the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*. This change allows members who are unable to attend national meetings to compete. As before, the award will consist of $100, a certificate, and $150 worth of books from the current catalog of the publishing firm of D. Reidel. Papers published up to three years prior to the date of the award are eligible, and the winner will be chosen by a committee which operates independently of the *Bulletin's* editorial staff.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Jeffrey L. Sturchio (formerly of AT&T Bell Labs) has been appointed as corporate archivist for Merck & Co., Inc. Dr. Sturchio's new address is Merck & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2000, Rahway, NJ 07065-0900.

Raymond B. Seymour (University of Southern Mississippi) and Charles H. Fisher have recently published *Profiles of Eminent American Chemists*. The book gives brief biographies of the 154 chemists who have won either the American Institute of Chemists' Gold Medal or its Chemical Pioneers Award.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

* Applications are invited for the 1990-1991 Edelstein International Fellowship in the History of Chemical Sciences and Technology. The fellowship period is from 1 September 1990 to 30 June 1991, and successful applicants are expected to divide their time between the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry in Philadelphia and the Edelstein Center for History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine in Jerusalem, Israel. The application deadline is 31 October 1989. For details, applicants in the USA should contact Dr. Arnold Thackray at the Beckman Center and those in Europe should contact Dr. Itamar Pitowsky of the Edelstein Center.

* Mary Virginia Orna and Mary Margaret Grubbs will conduct a winter intersession in the history of science from 4-18 January 1990. The course will take place at London's Science Museum, with side trips to Oxford, Cambridge, Kew Gardens and Greenwich. Cost of the trip, which includes round trip airfare (to and from JFK-New York-London), hotel accommodations, ground transportation in England and some meals, will be approximately $1499. For additional cost, the course may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit through the College of New Rochelle. For more information, write or call Dr. Mary Virginia Orna, Department of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10801; Phone: (914) 654-5309 (O) or (914) 636-4453 (H).

* The Edelstein Center International Workshop on the History of Chemical Technology will be held in Jerusalem on 28-31 May 1990, rather than 1989, as incorrectly announced in the last issue. For further details, contact Dr. Tony Travis, Deputy Director, Sidney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

* Dr. Colin A. Russell, noted British historian of chemistry, will be in the United States in April of 1990 and will be available for university seminars and other speaking engagements. Persons interested in contacting Dr. Russell, or in obtaining a list of potential talks, should contact Dr. John H. Wotiz, Department of Chemistry, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901.

* More detailed information is now available on the new *Mitteilungen* or journal/newsletter of the *Fachgruppe Geschichte der Chemie* of the *Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh)*. The group, which was established in 1962, is one of 18 subdivisions of the GDCh and has a membership of 233, mostly from academia and industry. The purpose of its publication is to preserve the most interesting of the papers read at the group's biannual meetings and to provide information on current projects and events in the history of chemistry. The journal, which is published in German, appears once a year, and costs DM16 for nonmembers and DM8 for members of the GDCh. Subscriptions should be sent to the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, Fachgruppen, Postfach 900440, Varrentrappstrasse, D-6000, Frankfurt (Main) 90, West Germany.

* Cornell University has established a cold fusion archive to document the current controversy over cold fusion. Potential contributors should contact Dr. Bruce V. Lewenstein, Cold Fusion Archive Project, STS Program, 632 Clark Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; Phone: (607) 255-6500.

* A two-day symposium in honor of Dr. O. T. Benfey entitled "The Context of Chemistry: Conceptual, Historical, Social" will be held at the 1989 Southeastern Regional ACS Meeting on 9-11 October 1989 in Winston-Salem, NC. The program