tion of this unique scientist. *John Belletire, Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221.*

LETTERS

The Faraday Issue

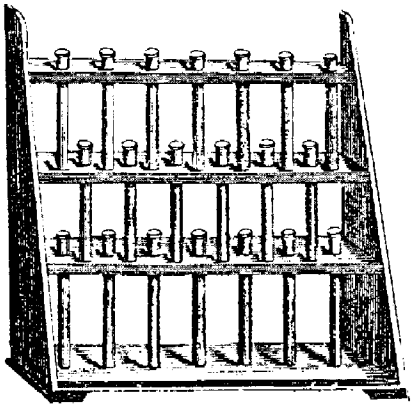
* My hearty congratulations on the Faraday number of the *Bulletin*. It's splendidly put together, a very good read and will be very useful. *William H. Brock, Univeristy of Leicester*

* In my article "Michael Faraday and the Art and Science of Chemical Manipulation" (No. 11, Winter 1991) I noted that Faraday's description of his home-made test tubes and test tube rack in his book *Chemical Manipulation* strongly suggested that "neither was commercially available at the time" and that one was "witnessing the incipient stages of their introduction" into the chemist's laboratory. Though I also added the caveat that, on the basis of this evidence, one could not "definitely assert that Faraday was the inventor of the test tube and test tube rack." Since then, Dr. Derek Davenport has donated a copy of volume 2 of the 1814 American edition of Frederic Accum's *System of Theoretical and Practical Chemistry* (Kimber and Conrad, Philadelphia) to the Oesper Collection. Figure 6 of Plate II of this volume clearly shows a test tube rack and test tubes, which Accum describes as:

> ... a test rack or wooden stand, containing glass tubes, for examining small portions of fluids, by the action of reagents or tests, or for dissolving small quantities of earths, or metals, by means of heat over a candle or lamp.

This plate may date back to the first London edition of 1803 or to the second London edition of 1807, and the rack and tubes were almost certainly offered for sale by Accum as part of his business as an apparatus dealer, though I am unfortunately unable to verify either of these surmises as I do not have access to earlier editions of Accum's text nor to his apparatus catalogs. Even if these earlier leads should prove dead ends, the 1814 reference cited above predates Faraday's book by over a decade. *William B. Jensen, University of Cincinnati*

* With every issue I'm increasingly impressed with the vitality, quality, and visual attractiveness of the *Bulletin*. The editorial staff is doing an outstanding job and in the process are making membership in the History of Chemistry Division a pearl of great price. You've put extraordinary value in our dues assessment. Our composition has always tended toward senior age chemists and small college academics. Neither of these groups can physically or financially turn out in great numbers at national meetings, so it has long devolved on the newsletters and bulletins to be the glue that holds us together.



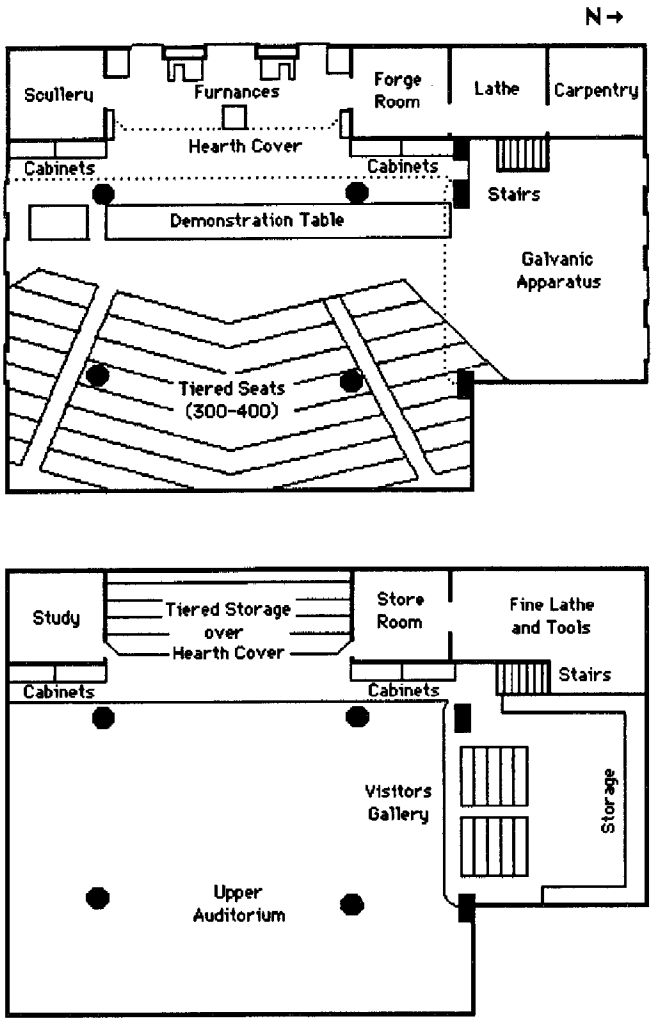
Frederic Accum's 1814 test tube rack

In your hands the *Bulletin* has become a very sticky adhesive. Congratulations! And from this long-time member ... many thanks! *Ned D. Heindel, 1993 ACS President-Elect*

Robert Hare's Lecture Hall

* I was delighted to receive Issues 10 and 11 of the *Bulletin* with the articles on Faraday and the superb historical and pictorial celebration of the art of the lecture demonstration. It's so sad to see what we once had and no longer have. An opportunity to use facilities like Robert Hare's laboratory and lecture hall at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School around 1830 (figure 10) would attract me back to teaching in an instant ... The article - especially the last paragraph - should be required reading for anyone who is involved with education in science in any way - teachers, students, parents, architects, administrators at all levels, perhaps not least of all "education presidents." *Henry A. Bent, Pittsburgh, PA*

* I enjoyed the paper on chemical lecture halls which appeared in Issue 10 of the *Bulletin* (Fall 1991). I suppose you will have recognized that figure 10 of Robert Hare's lecture hall is printed backwards. The figure used is from the second edition of Hare's *Compendium*. An earlier version, published in the *American Journal of Science*, **1830**, *19*, 26, did not have the electrical apparatus fastened to the front of the balcony. This earlier engraving was also used in some 1828 copies of Hare's *Compendium* (actually published or bound in 1830 as they contain a publisher's catalog dated October 1830). Both of these sources also printed a "Description of the Laboratory and Lecture Room." It is interesting to take the picture and the description and try to reconstruct the original floor plan [see figures on page 46]. The second edition of the engraving appeared in the 1836 edition of the *Compendium*. A closeup of the details of the electrical machine is given in Hare's *A Brief Exposition of the Science of Mechanical Electricity* ... (1835 and 1840). *William D. Williams, Harding University*



Dr. Williams' reconstruction of the floor plan of Robert Hare's lecture hall and laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School: (Top) ground floor, (bottom) upper floor.

AWARDS

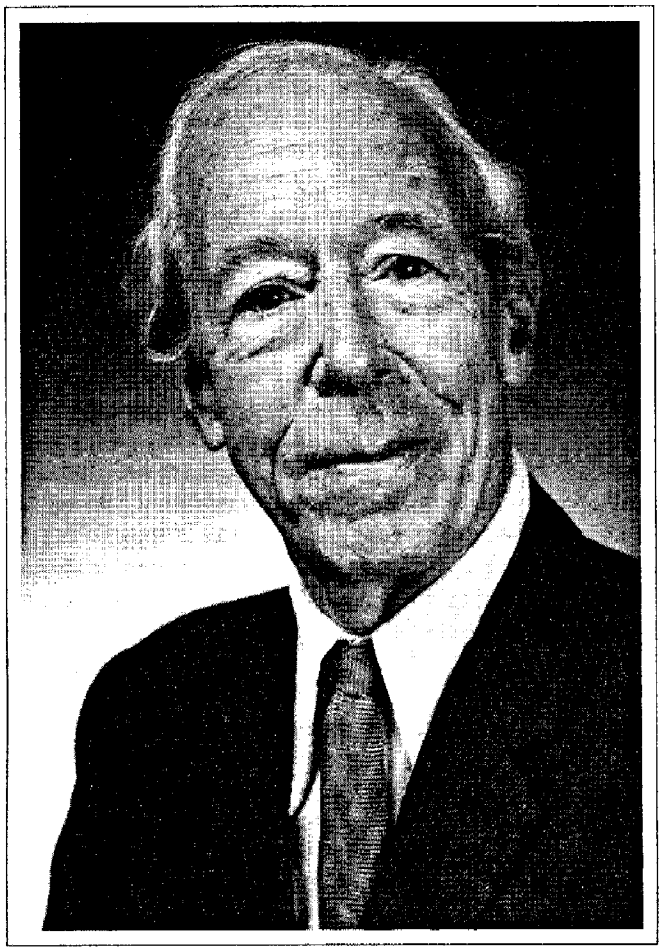
The Dexter Award

The 1992 Dexter Award for outstanding accomplishment in the history of chemistry has been awarded to Dr. John T. Stock of the University of Connecticut for his work on the preservation of early chemical instrumentation and the history of electrochemistry. The award, which consists of a cash prize of $2000 and an engraved plaque, was presented at the Fall National ACS Meeting in Washington, DC in August.

Born in Margate, Kent, England, on 26 January 1911, Dr. Stock received a general B.Sc. from the University of London in 1936, followed by a B.Sc. in chemistry in 1941, a M.Sc. in electrochemistry in 1945, a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry in 1949 and a D.Sc. in 1965. After holding several industrial positions, he joined the staff of Norwood Technical College in 1946. In 1956 he was appointed Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Connecticut, becoming full Professor in 1959 and Professor Emeritus in 1979.

Author of over 250 articles and reviews in analytical chemistry, electroanalytical chemistry, and the history of chemistry, Dr. Stock has also published two textbooks, an advanced monograph on amphoteric titrations, and several pamphlets on historical instrumentation for the London Science Museum: *The Development of the Chemical Balance* (1969) and *The Development of Instruments to Measure Electric Current* (1983). He has also co-edited, along with M. V. Orna, two historical volumes based on HIST symposia: *The History and Preservation of Chemical Instrumentation* (Reidel, 1986) and *Electrochemistry: Past and Present* (ACS Books, 1989). Dr. Stock's Dexter address will be published in Issue 14 of the *Bulletin*.

The Division would at this time like to solicit nominations for the 1994 Dexter award. Nominations should include a complete vita for the nominee, consisting of biographical data, educational background, awards and honors, publications,



Dr. John T. Stock