two compounds contained considerable amounts of solid matter which probably rendered the determinations inaccurate. The tetradecanoyl and stearyl compounds also gave turbid distillates, the solubility of the solid matter being too low to permit a quantitative determination by the method used. The N^4-dodecanoyl compound showed no turbidity in the distillate and seemed to have little if any volatility with steam.

Thus it appears that N^1-acylsulfanilamides with 8 carbon atoms or fewer in the substituent group have little or no volatility with steam, while with 10–18 carbon atoms in the substituent group, the volatility is high enough to cause serious losses when extracts of biological (or other) materials containing small amounts of the drugs are heated in open vessels. Conversely, it is quite possible that small amounts can be recovered completely by steam distillation. This may offer a useful procedure for the determination of the concentrations of such compounds in body fluids, following their administration. No further work is planned in this laboratory, but we suggest that an investigation of the steam volatility of N^1- and N^4- substituted sulfanilamides may be of importance in connection with the determination of such compounds in biological materials.

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AVAILABILITY OF CHEMICALS NOT SOLD COMMERCIALLY

THE Chicago Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers is considering the following project, in which it requests the cooperation of the reader.

The availability of unusual chemical compounds, pure enzyme preparations, etc., which are not obtainable from commercial sources, is often a matter of the greatest practical importance in determining the feasibility of a research project. Unless the research worker happens to know of an individual or laboratory which has such a compound, he may be forced to undertake a long and laborious synthesis or preparation which is merely incidental to the real problem he hopes to attack. At the same time there may be ample quantities of this material in other laboratories, as an incidental by-product of certain work, and for which the originator has little use.

We would like to collect information as to the existence and availability of the above materials throughout the country, and as to the needs of any investigator for specific substances. We have in mind the establishment of a central filing system where contact might be made between any qualified investigator and the individual or laboratory where the above materials might be obtained.

A canvass of local research circles has drawn forth considerable enthusiasm for the project and an almost uniform expression of opinion as to its potential value. However, from our limited contacts we are unable to estimate the extent of interest and cooperation which we might expect from the research workers of the country as a whole, or the magnitude of the practical aspects of this undertaking. We, therefore, solicit answers to the following questionnaire from individual research workers, from heads of research departments and from any other interested individuals or organizations:

(1) Do you favor the proposed effort to establish a central information agency for the above purpose?

(2) Do you now have or do you have from time to time any unusual chemical compounds or pure enzyme preparations which are not available commercially, and which you would be willing to supply either gratis or at cost to qualified research workers? Please list names of these materials if possible.

(3) What unusual chemical compounds or enzyme preparations, which are not available commercially, do you need for your work at the present time or from time to time?

If the response to this letter warrants it, the Chicago Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers will be glad to publish an analysis of the answers it receives, defining the apparent scope and potential usefulness of this project. It will also be glad to undertake the execution of the project if the latter does not appear to be too great an undertaking for its personnel and financial resources. In the latter case, our organization will attempt to interest some other national scientific organization or foundation in the matter.

Please address your replies to the undersigned. It is suggested that the secretaries or other officers of interested scientific organizations could help a great deal by drawing this letter to the attention of their memberships and urging them to communicate with us.

SAMUEL SOSKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Rare Chemicals
MICHAEL REESE HOSPITAL,
CHICAGO, ILL.

A PROPHECY FULFILLED

ON March 1, 1941, I wrote as follows to Dr. W. S. Adams, director of Mount Wilson Observatory:

Could you send me prints showing the visual and calcium spectroheliograph appearances of the sun? The dates desired are: Aug. 18, 19 and 20, 21, 1929, or 27 days thereafter; also Dec. 4, 5 and 6, 7, 1929, or 27 days thereafter; also March 21, 22 and 23, 24, 1930, or 27 days thereafter; also July 7, 8 and 9, 10, 1930, or 27 days