

TO BE OR NOT TO WAS

A play, depicting the examination for Ph. D. Degree.

Dramatic Personae:

G. I. R. A. Chemist. (Humble applicant for appendage.)
 Herr Doctor Professor Tetramethyldiamidophenylcarbinol. (Examiner for one of the minor subjects.)
 Dr. C. P. Acid. (Examiner for another minor subject.)
 Dr. Bankrupt. (Examiner for Major subject.)
 Scene: Recitation Room "F."

Thesis written by a chemist is entitled "Studies on the Electric Preparation of Negative Collodial Oxygen Atoms, and the Liberation of Asymmetric carbon Atoms from a Solid Solution of Chrome Nickel Steel by means of a High Density, using Paper and Glass Electrodes."

Opening Curtain:

Tetra and Bankrupt discovered waiting for C. P. Acid with Candidate. Enter Some Chemist bearing thesis, (bound) size of unabridged dictionary. Candidate nervously goes to board and proceeds to write structural formula of fantastic design. C. P. Acid enters, excuses his tardiness, then examination proceeds by Tetra.

Tetra: What is the difference between a primary, secondary and tertiary alcohol?

Answer: A primary alcohol is one used in primeval times.

A secondary is one used in medieval times and a tertiary is one used in modern times. It is thought that Peruna contains some of the quaternary as well as some quintary alcohols. (Loud applause from Acid.)

Q. What is a keytone.

A. Middle C.

(Business of G. I. R. A. Chemist trying to produce one.)

Q. What aldehyde is CHO?

A. That ain't a aldehyde, it's sea water.

Q. Give some well known examples of optical activity.

A. A radiometer is active in sunlight, Eva Tanguay is active in lime-light. Rube Marquard is laevo rotatory and Mathewson is dextro rotatory.

Q. Who was the originator of Boyle's Law?

A. Job.

Q. State Archimedes' Principle.

A. He didn't have any.

Q. What happens if you add an acid remark to a basic principle?

A. Hot air may be evolved and trouble precipitated.