

Murder in the Lab?

William B. Jensen
Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53706

A number of notes have appeared in this journal calling attention to novels and other fiction which might be of interest to the chemist or to the teacher looking for items to stimulate student interest in chemistry. In particular, mention has been made of Isaac Asimov's chemical detective novel, *A Whiff of Death*, and Dorothy L. Sayer's novel, *The Documents in the Case* (1, 2). Recently I have come across a review of yet a third chemical detective novel in looking through a 1931 issue of *The Laboratory* (3). The novel in question is by T. L. Davidson and is entitled *The Murder in the Laboratory*. The reviewer was quite enthusiastic, noting that the book "must have been written by a chemist with a flare for writing. It talks of beakers, balances, and methods of swings as smoothly as one chemist would to another." He concludes by declaring the novel a perfect solution to the problem of "what

to give a chemist for Christmas."

Unfortunately, I have been unsuccessful in locating a copy of this book and would like to inquire whether readers of this journal might know something about it, or could suggest other fictional pieces which make clever use of chemical principles.

References and Notes

1. G. R. Husk, P. N. Keliher, *J. Chem. Educ.*, **1973**, *50*, 69.
2. H. Hart, *J. Chem. Educ.*, **1975**, *52*, 444.
3. Anon., *The Laboratory*, **1931**, *2*(5), 71.

Publication History

Published in *J. Chem. Educ.*, **1976**, *53*, 202.