

# **Strohaver Science Club Hears Dr. Sheridan, Dunlop Chemist**

From Canisius organic lab instructor to Chief Chemist of the large Sheridan Drive plant of the Dunlop Rubber Co. is the career story of Dr. William R. Sheridan '22. On Wednesday evening, April 27, Dr. Sheridan's distinguished achievements in the field of chemistry will be recognized by the Strohaver Science Club, named in honor of the late Rev. Walter Strohaver, S.J., Chemistry Professor under whom Dr. Sheridan apprenticed as lab assistant. After Dr. Sheridan has delivered the concluding lecture in the current series of Strohaver lectures President Allan J. Williams will bestow on him the first honorary club membership ever awarded. Moderator Austin McTigue has invited alumni members to attend and an attendance of well over a hundred is expected.

## **Degrees Necessary for Success**

When asked by young chemists for his secret of success, Dr. Sheridan replies, "It's easy to obtain a job in a chemical laboratory. Advancement, however, depends on the initiative and qualifications of the individual. An intense love of chemistry, plenty of degrees and an adaptability to adjust theoretical knowledge to practical application are the most valuable assets."

## **Has Forty Assistants**

Explaining the scope of work at Dunlop, Dr. Sheridan said, "Our plant employs about six hundred, of whom forty are assigned to the chem-

istry laboratory. The variety of products manufactured range from athletic equipment and automobile tires to rubber cushions. The chief ingredients of rubber goods are isoprene, acid and sulphur.

"It's our job to determine which salts must be added to these to produce the particular physical properties desired in the product. For example, a property, permability, which may be desirable in a rubber tire may be the least desirable in a rubber cushion."

## **Synthesized Rubber Expensive**

Dr. Sheridan does not expect synthesized rubber discovered by the late Rev. J. A. Nieuwland of Notre Dame University to supersede the natural source in the near future. "The cost of neoprene, discovered by Fr. Nieuwland is five times higher than that of isoprene, the natural source obtained from the rubber tree. Both have similar properties. The properties of neoprene are preferable for certain purposes. For example, they are more desirable for rubber hoses used to pump gas and oil and is therefore used for this purpose. The general use of neoprene instead of isoprene is impossible because of its prohibitive cost of production."

## **Doctorate at Catholic University**

After his graduation from Canisius, Dr. Sheridan received both his Master of Science degree and his