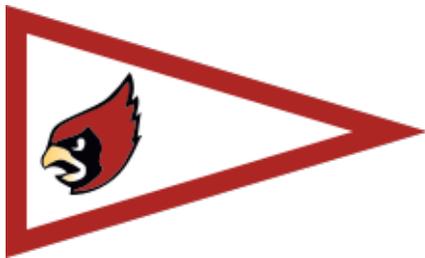
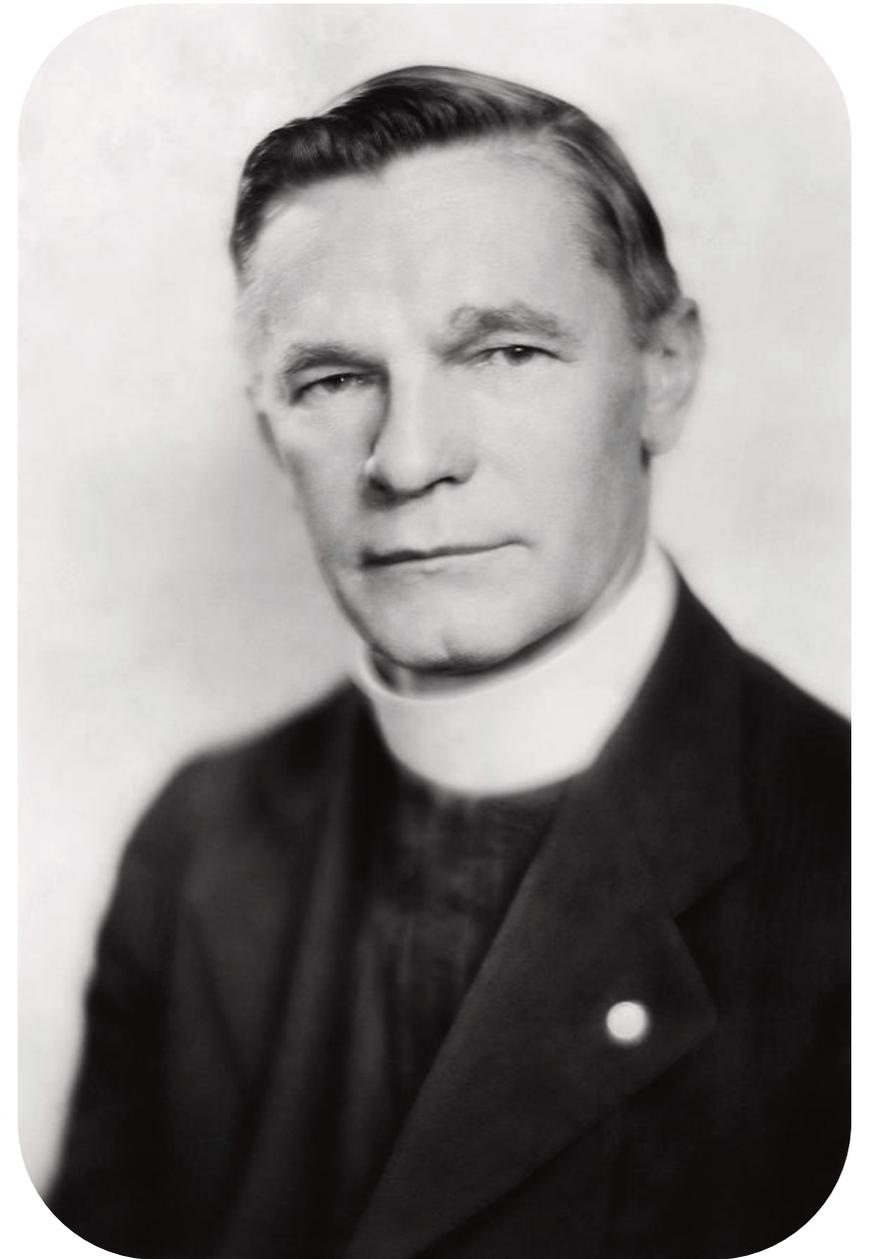


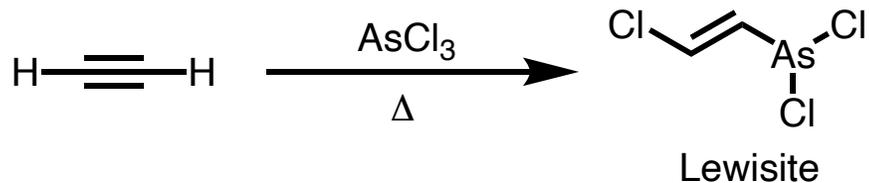
Father Julius Aloysius Arthur Nieuwland Ph.D.

- **Born** on February 14th, 1878, in Hansbeke, Belgium.
- Was a son of immigrant parents from Belgium who came to America to establish a better life and achieve the “American Dream”
- Belgium was in a period of financial hardship as well as labor and political reform
- He was raised in a devout Catholic family with a strong emphasis on education and faith.
- In **1899** he graduated from the University of Notre Dame with degrees in Latin & Greek (19 years old)
- In **1903** he completed seminary and became an OP
- While in Seminary he was also in graduate school at The Catholic University of America and obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry in **1904**
- **Died** on June 11th 1936, in South Bend, Indiana



Life in Grad School back in 1900

- Dr. Nieuwland studied Organic Chemistry as well as Botany
- Around 1836 an Irish chemist discovered Acetylene but he did not know it at the time. In 1860 Acetylene was rediscovered sparking interest in its chemistry.
- During the early 1900s Nieuwland became interested in the reactivity of Acetylene.
- This led to the discovery of Lewisite



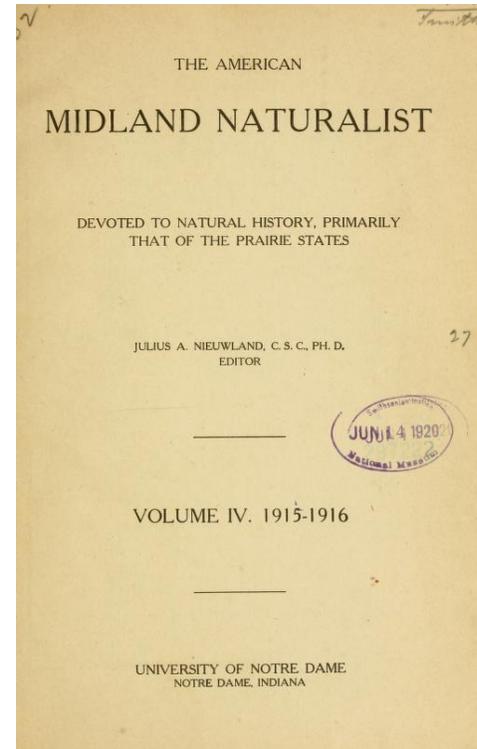
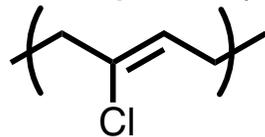
“Nieuwland had to be hospitalized for several days after his exposure to the newly synthesized compound; he did not purify it or otherwise pursue the matter any further.”

Life After Completing Formal Training

- Dr. Nieuwland returned to the **University of Notre Dame** as a professor in Chemistry(1936) and Botany (1918)
- In 1909 Dr. Nieuwland founded the peer-reviewed journal *American Midland Naturalist*
- His research lab patented (1920) the first polymerization of acetylene into divinylacetylene.



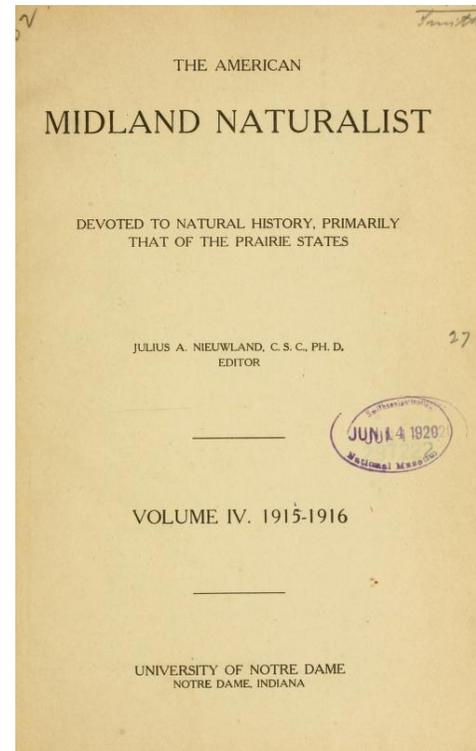
- DuPont bought this patent and used it as inspiration to make the first synthetic rubber Neoprene (1930)



Awards and Honors



- Morehead Medal from the International Acetylene Association (1932)
- President of the Indiana Academy of Sciences
- American Institute of Chemists Gold Medal (1935)
- Nichols medal (1935) for "Basic Work on Synthesis from Unsaturated Hydrocarbons"
- Mendel Medal from Villanova University (1936)
- The standard author abbreviation **Nieuwl.** is used to indicate this individual as the author when citing a botanical name.
- Inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1996, Father Nieuwland is the **only Catholic Priest** to receive this honor.





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