

## Cooperation and Service


THE FUNDAMENTAL AIM and obligation of a scientific journal is to further the contributions of science and technology in its field to the betterment of human welfare. With this aim, the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY has undertaken to serve an area of science in which it is believed there is a need for exchange and integration of knowledge and ideas. In this particular area of technology, there are many publications serving specific fields which make up that area. Clearly there is a need for cooperation directed toward giving the most effective possible total service. Therefore, it is with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure that we find in *Food Technology*, March 1953, an editorial expression of welcome to the entrance of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY into the field. We agree that a certain amount of healthy and wholesome competition of an indirect nature should "increase the quality, sharpen the discussion, and stimulate the production of papers benefiting the vast enterprise of growing and manufacturing food." We pledge our conscientious efforts to give the best in this and other subjects within our scope and extend cooperation to all—editorial, research, production, and commercial development—who do likewise.

Already, on the basis of our first number, we have received many complimentary letters which are indeed gratifying. This gives us confidence in our objectives and the method of our approach. However, if we are to serve the scientific area which we have outlined as that of our interest, we need the critical comments of those who wish to depend on us for the highest quality of work in the dissemination of scientific information. Therefore, we extend to our readers, a sincere invitation to offer their constructive criticisms through letters to the editor. Surely the reader knows best his own needs and interests and it is to his benefit that they be transmitted to the editors of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY.

## Logical Approach to Complex Problem

THE PUBLIC HEALTH questions arising from the use of chemicals in foods, pesticides, and cosmetics are quite different and should be considered as separate problems. Although scientists have long recognized this fact, it has apparently not been so clearly understood by nontechnical people.

Two years of hearings by a Congressional committee (Delaney Committee) led some Congressmen to the conclusion that public health was not being adequately protected by the provisions of the existing Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Acting on this premise, Rep. A. L. Miller (R.-Neb.) introduced a bill in the past Congress placing all new chemicals used in foods and cos-



metics under the control of the Food and Drug Administration with the stipulation that they be subjected to the same strict requirements applied to the introduction of new drugs. Included in the chemicals in foods category were those used in pesticides. This bill was not acted upon.

Rep. James J. Delaney (D.-N. Y.) introduced a similar bill in the present Congress. This has been referred to committee for its consideration.

During the past year Rep. Miller has studied this matter carefully and has consulted with manufacturers, farm organizations, users, and consumers of chemicals used in foods, pesticides, and cosmetics. His conclusion was that there are sufficient unique differences in these various fields to warrant separate consideration. He has therefore decided to prepare several amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which would clearly distinguish between these various categories and set up rules and regulations applicable to them.

His prime objective is to protect public health without discouraging research and development work leading to the new products so necessary to the needs of agriculture and industry. His first venture in this field is a bill relating to pesticides (AG AND FOOD, April 1, page 19.). He plans to follow this bill with others relating to foods and cosmetics. A counterpart bill has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. George D. Aiken (R.-Vt.)

A study of Rep. Miller's bill shows that he has adopted a selective approach which should accomplish the objectives he has outlined. There may be some minor points which may need clarification or amplification; if so, there is every reason to believe that the industry will cooperate in every way possible. Both the food and chemical industries are vitally interested in seeing that legislation is enacted which protects the public health but does not unduly hamper research and development of new, useful products. We believe that the two industries, having a common interest in this problem, should join together in seeking a workable law. It is very encouraging to see that some Congressmen, like Rep. Miller, are approaching this complex problem with open minds and are considering the views of all concerned before submitting proposed legislation which can affect a large segment of the nation's population and progressive, growing industries.

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