



## ACS Meeting, New York, Sept. 12-17

FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED in the technical aspects of producing food, there will be something that should be worth while at the 126th Meeting of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY in New York, Sept. 12 through 17.

The Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry is presenting an extensive and varied program. The Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry, which meets only in the fall, is offering technical programs on three days. The Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry and Biological Chemistry as well as Chemical Marketing and Economics will present a number of papers of significance to agricultural and food chemistry. The variety of types of material available in this, the most extensive program ever presented at an ACS meeting, runs from seed to plate.

Trace elements, soil testing, chelation and chelating agents are some of the topics basic to the feeding of plants included in the program of the Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry, in addition to papers on the problems of surface active agents, particle size effect, and liquid fertilizers. Two half-days will be devoted to a symposium on fertilizer technology, which includes experiment work, pilot plant studies, and manufacturing technology.

The care and protection of plants is the interest of the Pesticides Subdivision of the Ag and Food Division which is featuring a Symposium on Pesticides in Tropical Agriculture. This will give specialized attention to specific crops, areas, and types of pests. A slate of general papers includes discussions of toxicity, accumulation of DDT in soils, new pesticides, and analysis and assay.

Of particular interest in the feeding of animals are papers on antibiotics, amino acids, and rumen.

The Fermentation Subdivision has organized a Symposium on the Paper Chromatography of Biologically Active Fermentation Products. In addition a special symposium on the physical chemical aspects of fermentation has been arranged by Columbia University's chemical engineering department in connection with the university's bicentennial celebration and interested registrants at the ACS meeting are invited.

A Symposium on Chemical Aspects of Flavor and Odor Perception includes titles highly scientific with implications extending almost into the romantic.

A major feature in the Ag and Food Division's program will be a Symposium on Radiation Sterilization of Foods and Pharmaceuticals. Will new techniques replace refrigeration? How far have they advanced? What are the drawbacks and what remedies to those disadvantages are being found? A full day's program is designed to present the best available answers to those questions.

The Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry presents symposia with an interesting look at sources of carbohydrate raw materials and on nonsugar constituents in commercial sugar liquors. Scanning the program shows papers on photosynthetic and on enzymatic synthesis of sugars.

WALTER J. MURPHY, Editor

In the Division of Biological Chemistry can be found symposia on the synthesis of proteins and synthesis of lipides, in addition to many papers on amino acids, peptides, nucleic acids, metabolism, and nutrition.

In the Resources Symposium of the Division of Chemical Marketing and Economics, agriculture and the chemical industry in the South Atlantic States will be discussed, and a general paper is scheduled on development and marketing of agricultural chemical emulsifiers.

From this relatively specialized consideration of the ACS meeting program, the types of papers expand and diversify beyond space for description. The high points of interest in agricultural and food chemistry will be reported in this publication, but a great wealth of material will be available at the meeting beyond what can be put on paper.

## Intangible Returns from an ACS Meeting

READING OF THE PROGRAM for the ACS meeting to be held in New York next month gives an overwhelming impression of a great mass of highly specialized papers. It is true that many of the papers are specialized and are of great value to those working in the specific fields. But there are many aspects of the meeting of general value.

The luncheon addresses for the various divisions can be stimulating to thought and ideas. The Fertilizer and the Ag and Food Divisions both have first-rate selections. Byron Shaw of the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA presented in AG AND FOOD July 7, an article entitled "The Next Fifty Years in Agricultural Progress." The response to that article has been gratifying and has included not only requests for additional copies, but requests for permission to reprint. In his lecture before the Ag and Food Division, Dr. Shaw will develop further or more specifically some of the ideas presented in that paper. Edwin Cox of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corp. will talk before the Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry Division on "Evolution or Revolution—Plant Food Research." Never before has that subject received the attention it is getting today.

But in an even less formal fashion, there are intangible values which come through the great number of contacts which can be made within a week in this collection of members of the chemical profession which probably will be greater than ever has been seen before. Not only will those contacts produce a great deal of informal exchange of information, but will afford stimulation to the professional sense of the man who has a sincere interest in his work.