Contracts were settled on the basis of previous agreements—without loss of certain management functions for efficient plant operation—which the union sought to alter. All nine of the struck companies in the area have settled their strikes.

Brea Shipping Prilled Ammonium Nitrate

First production of ammonium nitrate from its new prilling tower is announced by Brea Chemicals, Inc. The plant is capable of producing 50,000 tons of ammonium titrate a year.

Brea claims several firsts with its new facilities: first prilled ammonium nitrate produced in the West for western growers; and the tallest all-aluminum process structure in the world. The prilling tower is 200 feet high and 30 feet square.

In addition to the prilling tower, new facilities at the Brea plant include four steel and aluminum warehouses in the hills near the plant. Each warehouse is 320 feet long and 80 feet wide, has covered docks, and is equipped with an automatic zoned sprinkler system. The warehouses will hold a total of 20 million pounds of prilled ammonium nitrate or a quarter of a million 20-pound bags.

Brea's new plant cost more than $2 million, was engineered by Chemical & Industrial Corp., and was built by Macco Corp.

Armour and Swift Settle Patent Suit Out of Court

Armour and Swift have settled a patent infringement suit between the two out of court. The suit, filed by Armour in September 1954, charged Swift had infringed upon Armour's patent covering modified lard. Under terms of the settlement, Swift purchased all Armour patent rights in the field of modified lard for $250,000 in cash. In addition the contract between the two provides that Swift shall license other processors to use Armour's patents "for reasonable terms" and that Armour shall be paid half of the royalties. Armour receives a royalty-free license to use patents sold to Swift and the Swift patents pertaining to modified lard.

Rohm & Haas Charges Patent Infringement on Fungicide

A patent infringement suit was filed Sept. 26 by Rohm & Haas Co. against Chemical Insecticide Corp. and United States Fungi, Inc., both of Brooklyn, and Joseph Lamberta, distributor of agricultural chemicals and agent for the two companies in Smyrna, Del.

The suit, filed in the U. S. District Court at Wilmington, Del., charges infringement of U. S. Reissue Patent 23,742 under which the Rohm & Haas sells its Dithane brand fungicide.

The suit charges the three defendants with direct infringement, with actively inducing others to infringe, and with contributory infringement through its sale of salts of ethylene bisdithiocarbamic acid knowing they have no commercial use outside the patent claims.

This action follows the filing by Rohm & Haas several months ago of infringement suits on the same patent against E-Z Flo Chemical Co. of Lansing, Mich., and its affiliate, Diamond Fertilizer Co. of Sandusky, Ohio, and also against Roberts Chemicals, Inc. of Nitro, W. Va.

Volk Radiochemical Organized in Chicago

Murray E. Volk has announced organization of Volk Radiochemical Co. to make and supply compounds tagged with radioactive carbon, sulfur, and phosphorus.

Offices of the new firm will be at 5412 North Clark St., Chicago 40, Ill. Dr. Volk was formerly associated with Nuclear-Chicago. He says the firms will also offer such services as performance of special chemical and biological syntheses, consultation on application of radiochemical techniques to solution of research problems, and health physics instrumentation and calibration.

RESEARCH

Inorganic Sulfates Possible Additives for Poultry Feeds

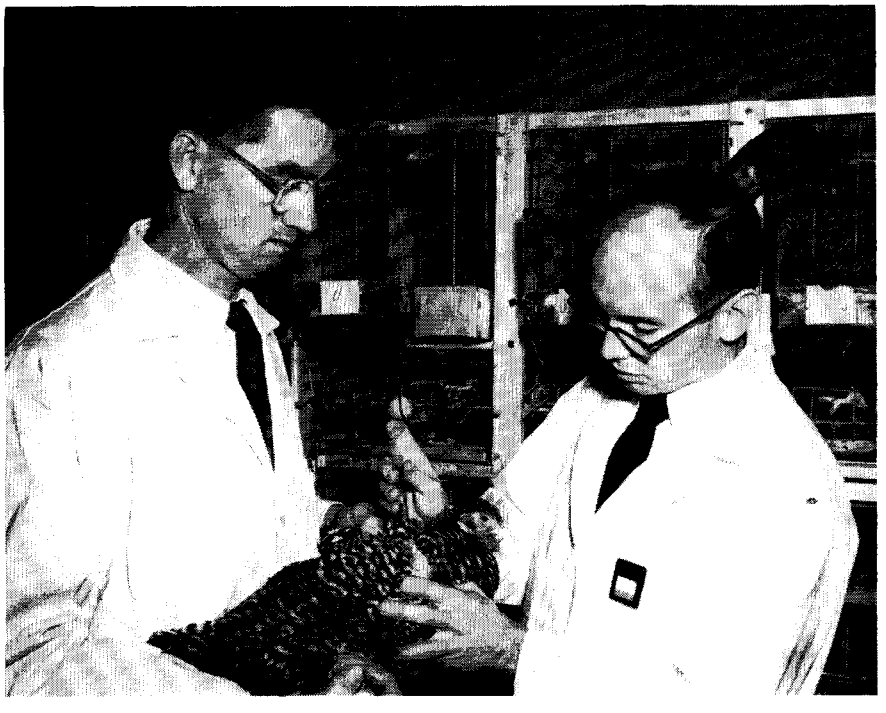
Simple inorganic sulfate compounds may become poultry feed additives, according to USDA research which indicates that such compounds can replace to some extent the sulfur-containing amino acids' cystine and methionine. Using radioactively tagged sulfur compounds, USDA scientists learned that sulfate is not excreted, as it has been believed, but is used in the body for manufacturing cystine and taurine, the latter a compound whose function is not yet understood. They also found that large amounts of sulfate are incorporated unchanged into the tissues of embryos and young chickens.

Tracer amounts of methionine and cystine, labeled with radioactive sulfur, were injected into eggs. Analysis of the hatched chick showed that large amounts of the methionine had been converted to cystine, and some of it to taurine or sulfate. Some cystine was also converted to taurine and sulfate. The sulfate thus produced is evidently used to synthesize chondroitin sulfate, a cartilage constituent.

USCA Starts Grain Storage Research at New Illinois Site

USDA has set up a research project at Watseka, Ill., on the most effective and

Injecting amino acids tagged with radioactive sulfate into laying hens yields information which USDA scientists hope will lead to more efficient feed utilization



Calspray Opens House at New Lab

California Spray-Chemical opened house Sept. 23 at its new bio-screening section laboratories at Richmond, Calif., where new insecticides and other agricultural chemicals will be put through the paces in greenhouses under controlled conditions. Calspray officials on hand were: F. J. Hutcher (left), L. R. Gardner, A. W. Mohr, W. D. Thomas, J. W. Hansen, and R. R. Thomas

economical methods of maintaining quality of stored grain. Although first work will center on various types of aeration, methods on controlling insects and rodents will also be included, as will grain handling techniques and storage structures.

The new center for this research will bring together work that has been in progress in scattered locations throughout the grain belt. Some 30 round steel bins of 3250-bushel capacity are already erected at Watseka and two flat storages are under construction there. These bins, the type in which most Commodity Credit grain is stored, will be filled with grain from the 1954 crop.

The study is being conducted by the Agricultural Marketing service and financed by Commodity Credit.

FMC to Build Chemical Lab for Long Range Research

Food Machinery & Chemical has announced it will build a central research laboratory for its chemical divisions near Princeton, N. J. To be staffed by 150 people, the new lab will not affect the seven chemical research laboratories maintained as part of the company's divisional structures. Instead, the new laboratory is to concentrate primarily on long-range chemical research in behalf of the chemical divisions as a whole.

The new laboratory, to provide 45,000 square feet, is to be built on a 32.5 acre site adjacent to the James Forrestal Research Laboratories of Princeton University. The site was part of the Walker-Gordon Laboratory Co. property, an area planned as a site for diversified research centers.

The FMC chemical divisions include: Becco Chemical, Niagara Chemical, Fairfield Chemical, Ohio-Apex, Westvaco Chlor-Alkali, and Westvaco Mineral Products.

Atlas Powder Realigns Chemical Research, Development

Atlas Powder Co. has basically realigned its chemical research and development organization and staff to strengthen long range research and product diversification programs, it is announced by Edward J. Goett, vice president in charge of the chemicals division.

Atlas expects the reorganization to result in a significant expansion of chemical research facilities and personnel in the next few years, with increased emphasis on basic research.

Describing the move as one phase of plans to expand Atlas' position in the chemicals industry, Mr. Goett said that "the successful chemical company is one that is able to move new discoveries from the laboratory bench into profit-producing outlets in the shortest possible time. Our new research organization is designed to achieve this objective."

Developed after extensive study by Atlas and the management consultant firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget, the realigned organization consists of three groups: a chemical research department which will conduct long range projects, a chemical engineering department which will be responsible for all commercial production studies and a product development department which will undertake market application and customer service work.

Joining the Atlas staff to direct the chemical research department is Walter H. C. Rueggeberg, formerly director of organic research and development for Tennessee Corp.

The chemical engineering department will continue to be headed by Marshall T. Sanders, who has been with Atlas since 1917.

Director of the new product development department is F. Faxon Ogden, who joined Atlas in September after 20 years with Monsanto Chemical Co.

Assistant directors of the research staff include: chemical research department—Robert S. Rose, Jr., John D. Brandner, and John W. LeMaistre; chemical engineering department—J. Neal Addoms; product development department—William C. Griffin and George O. Rudkin, Jr.

ASSOCIATIONS

Weed Meetings in January in New York

Economic problems caused by weeds and the progress in weed control will be highlighted at the charter meeting of the Weed Society of America at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, Jan. 4 and 5, 1956.

Hosts to the meeting will be the Northeastern Weed Control Conference whose annual meeting will be held on Jan. 6 following the Weed Society Charter Meeting.

The Weed Society of America, founded Dec. 8, 1954, was formed to encourage and promote the development of knowledge concerning weeds and their control through publishing research findings, fostering high standards of education, encouraging effective regulation, and promoting unity in all phases of weed work.

R. H. Beatty, American Chemical Paint Company, Ambler, Pa., is serving as president of the society during the organization period. Other officers are W. B. Ennis, Jr., USDA, State College, Miss., vice president; and W. C. Shaw, USDA, Beltsville, Md., Secretary-Treasurer.

The first day will be devoted to a discussion of problems, progress, and organization of weed control in England, Canada, and the U. S. A paper on the