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(For Branch Offices see page 726)

On the Boardwalk

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY will convene at Atlantic City next month for its 130th National Meeting. The affair promises workers throughout the agricultural and food fields an excellent opportunity to "catch up" in many areas of increasing significance and interest to them.

The Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry and the Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry, which traditionally operate in these fields, have as usual arranged solid programs of lasting value. They will share the agricultural and food limelight this fall with the Division of Chemical Marketing and Economics. The latter has scheduled, under the chairmanship of Hugo Riemer, president of the Nitrogen Division of Allied Chemical & Dye, a two-day symposium on "Chemicals in Food Production." While it is the most recent to have attained full divisional status within the ACS framework, the Division of Chemical Marketing and Economics is already one of the largest and most active. Its contribution of a score of papers in the food field will add considerably to the satisfying fare supplied by the "regulars."

The Ag and Food Division and its subdivisions have the fullest schedule of papers, with 14 half-day sessions on the agenda. A high point for pesticides researchers will be the full-day symposium on relationships between the molecular structure and biological activity of pesticides. Progress in establishing such relationships means progress toward the day when true specificity will be built into insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides.

Other symposia will deal with physical functions of hydrocolloids, microbial transformation of steroids, fermentation process and equipment design, and radiation sterilization.

On Monday evening, Sept. 17, the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry and the Division of Chemical Marketing and Economics will cosponsor a reception and dinner at which the speakers will be Gen. John E. Hull, U.S.A. (Ret.), full-time president of the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, and the Hon. Bradshaw Mintener, Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Prominently featured at the reception will be an exhibit of processed food products containing chemical additives.

Still another special event of interest will occur on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 19, when the Hon. Byron T. Shaw, administrator of Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, will address the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry on "The Impact of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering on the Production and Utilization of Agricultural Commodities."

A half-day session on fertilizer technology will highlight the two-day meeting of the Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry, affording research and production people alike an opportunity to learn how fertilizer materials and processes are actually handled in the plant. More of the practical how-to-do-it type discussions are slated for the sessions of general papers, which will also include reports on basic research, economics, and market research.

Programs for the divisional meetings likely to be of greatest interest to AG AND FOOD readers begin on page 671 of this issue. They promise a very full week, but a very profitable one. Keeping up to date on all aspects of agricultural and food processing technology is an increasingly imposing task; the divisional programs of the ACS offer a means of accomplishing a major portion of the task with a minimum expenditure of time and effort.