



August 1958 Volume 6, No. 8

APPLIED JOURNALS, ACS

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(For Branch Offices see page 626)

The Past Is Prologue

FIVE DIVISIONS of the American Chemical Society have reached the half-century mark. With two of them in particular—the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, and the Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry—AG AND FOOD has enjoyed a close relationship throughout its existence. The other three 50-year veterans, the Divisions of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry, have also contributed over the years to the fields which AG AND FOOD now serves. The Journal and its editors congratulate all five divisions on their first 50 years of progress and achievement, and wish them even greater success in the future.

We are happy to salute similarly our sister publication, *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. For I&EC, too, has completed a full 50 years of service to the chemical profession and the chemical industry. During its illustrious career it has established the pattern and set the pace for applied technical publications. It has given continuous proof that high standards of originality and reliability are in no wise the exclusive domain of fundamental journals.

At the ACS meeting in Chicago next month, a great deal of attention will be paid to the history of the Society's five senior divisions and its first applied publication, I&EC. Quite properly so. A golden anniversary should not be allowed to pass without a thoughtful glance backward. And surely there is no harm in giving expression at such a time even to feelings of nostalgia for the good old days.

Among the special commemorative events scheduled for Chicago are a Golden Anniversary symposium on The First Fifty Years of the First Five Divisions (Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 9), a Golden Anniversary Banquet (Tuesday evening), several divisional anniversary luncheons, and a special series of Golden Anniversary Lectures (Wednesday morning and afternoon). Each of these events, and others as well, will afford opportunities for constructive review of the record.

But the thing that impresses us most about the Chicago meeting plans is not the scheduled obeisance to the past. It is rather the plans for looking ahead to greater accomplishments to come. Typical of this forward-looking approach are the symposium on Food Science and the Future, scheduled by the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry (Monday morning and afternoon), and the Golden Anniversary Lectures sponsored by the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.

The frame of mind that leads to programs of this type is a guarantee that the 50th milestone will be treated not as a goal achieved, but as a benchmark for continuing progress. The many special symposia and other ceremonial events scheduled for the Chicago meeting will serve in a sense as a rearview mirror, but their greater significance will undoubtedly lie in their functioning as windows to the future.