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EDITORIAL

PROGRESS

President's Message

By J. J. VOLLERTSEN

Since its inception the American Oil Chemists' Society has been fortunate in having among its active members men who were willing, at great personal sacrifice, to devote considerable time to the advancement of the society's welfare. They were possessed of the spirit of pioneers and the willingness to labor in order to make their visions realities. Previous to its formation there existed numerous methods for the analysis of cottonseed products, which resulted in many disagreements in analyses. The standardization and adoption of methods for this class of work, assistance in formulating the rules of the Interstate Cottonseed Crushers' Association and the Smalley Foundation, which has increased the accuracy of the nitrogen and oil determinations to a remarkable degree, stand as testimonials to the fact that their work was well done. Their example is our heritage and incentive to carry on the work so well begun.

Unfortunately, all of our members cannot attend the meetings of the society, and thus obtain the inspiration which comes from listening to the reports and papers which are delivered, and from the personal contact with their fellow chemists. Likewise we cannot all serve on the committees which are selected by the President, with the advice of the respective chairmen. This, however, should not deter any member from giving some thought to the work of the society, and offering his suggestions and co-operation to the committees which are working on problems in which he is especially interested. In his daily work he may encounter conditions which have a pertinent bearing on the work of some committee, and by reporting it to the chairman he would greatly aid the progress of the work. With such coöperation the work of the committees would be simplified and made more effective.

Last year witnessed the formation of several new committees. The Planning Committee began a little late, but made themselves felt in the work of some of the committees by their suggestions. For several years the officers of the society have tried to expand its interest in fields other than those concerned entirely with cottonseed oil and its related branches. Their success is evidenced in the appointment of a Committee on the Analysis of Commercial Fats and Oils, and a Detergents Committee, and the adoption of methods for the analyses of fats, oils, and soaps. It is hoped that the coming year will see these methods published in a concise loose-leaf form, that will be available to all who have need of them.

We have all had sufficient experience to realize the truth of the statement that the returns we obtain from any activity are dependent entirely upon our interest in it, and the energy expended. This applies just as surely to the societies of which we are members as to our daily endeavors. The American Oil Chemists' Society is a growing body, and the rapidity and scope of its growth is entirely dependent upon the efforts of its officers and individual members. Those who have once been active in its work need no urging to continue. Those who have not been so fortunate, we would urge to take an active interest at once, for the mutual good which would result. Progress will be hastened by suggestions and constructive criticism. Give something to your society and thereby benefit yourself.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, June, 1925.