

# oil & soap

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## *Industries Show Improvement*

After touching low levels in 1933, production in the medicinal, cosmetic, and toilet requisite industries appears to be gaining since the beginning of 1934, judging from imports of raw materials used in these industries, and their indicators, C. C. Concannon, Chief of the Commerce Department's Chemical Division, stated recently.

Total production in these industries during 1933 amounted to \$395,070,750, a decline of 24 per cent compared with 1931, and 38 per cent below 1929 when production reached \$637,126,000, the value being based on f.o.b. factory prices. The number of establishments operating in 1933 totaled 1,856 compared with 2,353 in 1931 and 2,766 in 1929. The average number of wage earners showed similar losses, declining from 40,231 in 1929 to 30,714 for 1933, it was stated.

Perfumes, cosmetics, and other toilet preparations led this group of industries in the value of production with an output valued at \$108,233,000; followed by patent and proprietary packaged medicines valued at \$104,626,600; pharmaceutical and galenical preparations, \$94,063,600; patent or proprietary compounds, \$33,402,400; and biological products, \$19,597,000.

### **Charles W. Rice**

The death of Charles W. Rice, of Columbia, South Carolina, on December 19, came as a shock to his many friends in The American Oil Chemists Society and in the chemical profession generally.

He had been suffering from influenza since Friday, December 14, but his illness was not regarded as serious.

Mr. Rice was 48 years of age and was born in Allendale, South Carolina, on March 7, 1886, the son of Cecile Peck Rice and William Francis Rice, of Denmark, South Carolina. He graduated from Clemson A. & M. College in 1908. After receiving his degree at Clemson, he taught chemistry for two years at Purdue University and then became connected with the Royster Guano Company at Norfolk, Virginia, where he remained until 1915 when he entered business for himself in Columbia. He organized the Charles W. Rice & Company commercial laboratories, of which he was president and senior member; the other member and organizer being R. M. Simpson.

In addition to being a member of the societies of his profession, Mr. Rice was a member of the Rotary Club, the Cotillion Club and the Baptist Church. He was also a member of the Masonic Order.

Charlie was a man of many fine traits of character, and his attractive personality made friends for him among people of all walks of life. His death will grieve his friends of the chemical profession and of the entire community in which he lived. The American Oil Chemists Society has lost a loyal and interested member by his untimely death.

### **Harris to Wilson & Bennett**

Announcement has been made that John P. Harris has joined the organization of the Wilson & Bennett Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of steel containers, with factories and offices in Chicago, Jersey City and New Orleans. Mr. Harris' activities will embody complete supervision of the development, production and sales of sanitary steel containers for edible products.

He is well known in the industrial chemical and food products fields, and while he needs no introduction, a little historical review will be of interest. After leaving college, he took a position with Armour & Company in Kansas City, and was later transferred to Ft. Worth. He spent over nine years as chemist and refinery superintendent for this company. From here he went to the Phoenix Cotton Oil Company at Mem-



J. P. HARRIS

phis and spent two years with this organization as chemist and refinery manager, in charge of the production of pure lard, vegetable oils and shortening. When this country entered the world war Mr. Harris enlisted in the chemical warfare service, where he served as first lieutenant.

Mr. Harris was later chemical engineer for the Allbright-Nell Company for two years. After this he went into business for himself as a consulting chemical engineer and assisted in designing and installing many oil and fat refining and rendering units all over the world. After four years on this work, he became director of practical research of the Institute of American Meat Packers, which position he held for two years. He later became Chicago manager of the Industrial Chemical Sales Company, and has been with this organization for about eight years.

Mr. Harris has written many interesting articles that are recognized by the edible products industry as authoritative.