News

Book Review

"INDEX TO THE LITERATURE OF FOOD INVESTIGATION." Agnes Elizabeth Glennie, Gwen Davies, and Catherine Robson. Vol. 10, No. 2, September, 1938. 187 pages. His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1938. Price $1.35 from British Library of Information, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y.

This bibliography is an excellent series of abstracts from the food investigation literature received at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Great Britain during the period April 1 - June 30, 1938. It is divided into fifteen main sections for quick reference: Meat, Pig-flesh, Poultry and Game, Fish, Eggs, Dairy Produce, Fats and Oils, Fruit and Vegetables, Grain Products-Crops-Seeds, Theory of Canning, Theory of Freezing and Chilling, Bacteriology, Mycology, Engineering, and Miscellaneous. A total of 1618 numbered abstracts appear in this section of the index. An author index and a handy list of the 113 periodicals abstracted is included.

This member of the series should prove a convenient aid to the literature searcher. The booklet is paper-bound and is excellent from the typographical standpoint. The food literature index has been issued twice a year since 1929 by the British Government and it is to be hoped that the series will be continued as it is a valuable contribution to bibliographical literature. A decennial author-subject index for the entire series would not be amiss at the present time.

—R. R. Pederson

Fat and Oil Statistics

Director of the Census, William L. Austin, announces the preliminary statistics of the factory production and consumption, imports, exports and stocks of animal and vegetable fats and oils for the 3-month period ending September 30, 1939. The production (exclusive of refined oils and derivatives) was 1,225,547,866 pounds of which vegetable oils totaled 583,424,894 pounds; fish oils 68,402,042; animal fats 480,143,279; and greases 93,577,651. The largest items were lard 304,271,230 pounds; cottonseed oil 231,526,209; tallow 174,587,825; linseed oil 134,326,190; soybean 74,002,201; coconut 61,948,683; corn 39,097,837; castor 16,638,565; babassu 16,220,213; and peanut 5,905,000.

The production of refined vegetable oils during the period was as follows: cottonseed 190,109,548 pounds; coconut 70,338,094; soybean 77,663,188; corn 36,033,268; palm 22,747,862; peanut 15,442,270; babassu 8,426,525; and palm-kernel 323,863. The quantity of crude oil used in the production of each of these refined oils is included in the figures of crude consumed.

The report is completed by a group of tabulations in which the above statistics are broken down into the various types and grades of fats and oils produced and consumed.

Report of Fall Meeting of Committee D-12 Soaps and Other Detergents

Committee D-12 Soaps and Other Detergents of the A.S.T.M., had a very interesting meeting November 2 and 3, at the Hotel New Yorker, New York. There were about 45 men present, and all evinced deep interest in the work.

Since it seems rather impossible to write chemical specifications for the various new detergents on the market, sulphonated alcohols, etc., Section II E is trying to develop a performance test to be used in evaluating this material. This problem is very difficult but the committee is making good progress.

Tetrasodium pyrophosphate, and sodium sesquisilicate were studied and proposed specifications were suggested for study and consideration at the spring meeting.

Salt Water Soap was also discussed and proposed specifications suggested.

There were some minor changes made in soap methods of analysis, and the committee will work on other suggestions during the winter.

Palm Oil Soaps both pure and blended, low titre soaps, etc., were discussed exhaustively. These soaps, in particular, are used extensively in textile work, and there seemed to be great interest in the types of specifications desired, and whether one specification should cover pure and blended palm oil soaps or whether two are needed. It seems that 80% of the palm oil solid soap used in textile work is made from palm oil blended with other oils, while only 20% of the palm oil chip soap used is blended.

There was a long discussion of the proposed monograph on the use and testing of soaps and other detergents, some feeling that it was too soon to write it, while others felt that we should start getting it together. After a considerable clarification of ideas, it was proposed to write up published material on caustic soda for the committee's consideration in the spring.

Liquid Soaps were also proposed and will probably be considered at the spring meeting.

Appointment

Dr. Evald L. Skau has been appointed Senior Chemist in the Oil, Fat and Protein Division of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Henry G. Knight, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, announced recently. Dr. Skau's investigations will involve a fundamental study of various physical and chemical methods of separation of the fatty acids and glycerides of cottonseed and peanut oils, so that these compounds and derivatives thereof may be made available commercially from this source.

Dr. Skau holds a Ph.D. degree in physico-organic chemistry from Yale University. He taught for a number of years at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and has also done considerable consulting work. For two years he was National Research Council fellow at the Research Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He spent two years at various foreign universities and at the International Bureau of Standards in Brussels, one year as Guggenheim fellow. For the past two years he has been investigating the effect of ultraviolet light on sterols as International Cancer Research Foundation fellow, at Yale University. He has published numerous papers on the purification and physical properties of organic compounds in the various scientific journals.

Appointment Announced

Dr. Lawrence F. Martin has been appointed Senior Chemical Engineer in the Chemical Engineering and Development Division of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Henry G. Knight, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, announced today.

Dr. Martin holds a Ph. D. degree in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois, after having been trained in chemical engineering at Tulane University. For six years after graduation he was engaged in research and development in the Organic Research Division of the Dow Chemical Co., at Midland, Mich., and was issued a number of patents assigned to that company. He spent three years in independent research at Tulane University before being appointed Associate Chemist in the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering in 1936. His previous work with the Bureau has been upon fundamental studies of tobacco mosaic and other plant viruses, on which several papers have been published. He has also had charge of construction of the Bureau's air driven ultracentrifuges, for use in fundamental protein and colloid investigations.

Fritzche Appoints Chicago Manager

Announcement has just been made by Fritzche Brothers, Inc., New York City, of the appointment of Joseph A. Gauer as manager of the Chicago office and territory. Mr. Gauer is well known in the territory over which he will have supervision, having worked out of the Chicago office since joining the firm in 1925. Assuming his new duties, he fills the position left vacant by the recent death of Mr. M. B. Zimmer.

Glycerine Booklet

The Glycerin Producers Association, Research Laboratories, at 9 South Clinton Street, Chicago, Illinois, have issued a booklet entitled GLYCERINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES. This booklet gives data on the properties and uses of glycerine, including curves on relative humidity, viscosity, vapor pressure, and freezing points of glycerine-in-water solutions. Ten derivatives are listed including chlorohydrins, ethers, and aldehyde derivatives.

The derivatives have been made available in quantities from four to sixteen ounces and a price list covering these quantities is included with the booklet.

New Catalog

A new handsome large catalog of technical books has just been issued by the Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York City. It covers domestic and imported books on chemistry, physics, mathematics, medicine, metallurgy, machinery, engineering, biology, general science, business, manufacturing, and technical dictionaries.

A copy will be sent to anyone interested, on receipt of stamps to cover postage.

"Chemicals By Glyco"

"Chemicals by Glyco," a comprehensive catalogue of specialty chemicals covering emulsifying agents, glycol and glyceryl esters, synthetic waxes, synthetic resins, plasticizers and flexibilizers, has just been revised and brought up to date.

In addition to the suggested formulae and useful tables contained therein, the Glyco Products Co., Inc. have included a complete index of materials classified according to industry. This index is an easy and ready guide for manufacturers, chemists and technical workers to the products most applicable in their particular field.

Of interest, too, is a list of some new materials recently introduced by the company.

Write today, to the Glyco Products Co., Inc., 148 Lafayette Street, New York, New York, for your free copy of this very useful catalogue.

New Booklet

A new booklet entitled "A Study of the Control of Nickel Catalyst" has just been issued by the Rufert Chemical Company, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

A copy will be sent to anyone interested.