

PATENT OFFICE PROVIDES NEW  
SUBCLASSES IN FATTY OIL TREATMENT  
FACILITATING SEARCHING

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The Patent Office has recently re-arranged portions of Class 87 "Oils, Fats" and done much to remedy a situation in patent searching which had become almost chaotic. There seems to be no record as to when titles both inapt and inaccurate were placed on subs 4 and 12, designated respectively by "Decomposing fats" and "Refining fats, oils." It would have taken a chemist with the Nth degree of imagination to expect to locate patents on a sulfonated oil or a blown oxidized oil under the heading "Refining." To a degree, such misfit titles have been rectified.

From these two major groups or sub-classes, the great percentage of the patents have been taken out; these have been put under Class 260, the broad generic class for carbon compounds and sub-divided according to the subject matter into 32 groups. Credit for this work goes to Mr. Manuel C. Rosa, who has worked in the class of organic chemistry for twelve years. Reliance placed in him and freedom from fetters has yielded results which are a credit. The changes and arrangement will shorten searching of patents from the standpoint of a novelty investigation, a validity investigation or an infringement investigation. It is the writer's opinion that it would have been better to have kept the glyceride oils as a separate entity as is done by the arrangers of Chemical Abstracts magazine. But this is of no great significance. There still remain in Class 87 patents wherein there are mixtures of oils undergoing treatment, also oils stabilized against oxidation. It is to be hoped that the Patent Office will soon take up this matter and properly sub-divide this residue class. The titles here are the same as formerly and consequently inapt. Also there has taken place so much development in the field of anti-oxidants for oils and soaps, that a separate subdivision should be provided.

There are a few errors in the proper placement of patents but doubtless this will soon be corrected. It is understood that work is now in progress on the classification of Class 87 sub 16 "Soap Making." This classification work means less time and expense in searching and enables a man with technical knowledge in glyceride oil chemistry to conduct a search unaided by a sixth sense which reads strange meanings into terms like "refining."

The new classification as it appears in the manual is:

- 398 Fats, fatty oils, ester-type waxes or higher fatty acids
- 399 Sulfur containing
- 400 Sulfoxy containing
- 401 Amino or amido containing
- 402 Aryl nucleus
- 403 Phosphorus containing e.g. lecithin
- 404 Nitrogen containing
- 405 Acylated
- 406 Oxidized
- 407 Polymerized
- 408 Halogen containing
- 409 Hydrogenated
- 410 Synthetically produced higher fatty esters
- 411 Glycerides

- 412 Recovery from foots, residues or other industrial wastes
- 413 Higher fatty acids or their salts
- 414 Heavy metals or Aluminum containing
- 415 By hydrolysis of fats, oils waxes
- 416 With organic sulfonic acids
- 417 With alkali forming metal compounds
- 418 With subsequent treatment
- 419 Purification or recovery
- 420 Purification or recovery of fats, oils and waxes
- 421 By esterification of free fatty acids
- 422 By treatment with radiant or electrical energy
- 423 By treatment with oxidizing agents
- 424 By treatment with acid, anhydride or acid salts
- 425 By treatment with basic substances
- 426 With organic solvent
- 427 With solid adsorbent
- 428 By physical treatment
- 429 Heavy metal containing

SPRING CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN  
OIL CHEMISTS' SOCIETY

The annual spring business meeting of The American Oil Chemists' Society will be held at the Jung Hotel in New Orleans on May 5 and 6. Many members will no doubt be glad to learn that New Orleans has again been chosen as the site for the Spring Meeting. This has been almost a tradition with the Society.

It should be noted carefully that the meeting this year is to be held on Friday and Saturday instead of on Thursday and Friday as in previous years. There has been a desire among many members to have the meeting postponed one day. This brings the meeting somewhat closer to that of the National Cottonseed Products' Association for which many of our members remain. The Governing Board this year decided to try out the Friday and Saturday meeting dates.

Mr. J. J. Ganucheau is again heading the Committee on Local Arrangements. His reputation as a convention organizer is known to all and gives the membership assurance of a successful convention. Mrs. Stryker is acting as Chairman of the Ladies' entertainment. Mr. A. F. Sanchez will again have charge of the Golf Tournament.

President Cox advises that he has had promised a number of interesting papers. At this early date this bids fair to guarantee an interesting program so far as the technical sessions are concerned. There will, of course, be a large number of committee reports; much interest attaches to the committee reports made at the annual business meeting and information regarding the progress of all of the Society's committees will no doubt be of interest to those who attend the Convention.

President Cox requests that all who have papers to present at the meeting or who know of anyone who has a paper, communicate with him immediately. Address Mr. C. H. Cox, c/o Barrow-Agee Laboratories, Memphis, Tenn.