

August Short Course Held at U. of I. is Tremendous Success

A MILESTONE in the history of the American Oil Chemists' Society was passed during the week of August 16 to 21, 1948, when the first Short Course was conducted on the "Production, Processing, and Uses of Vegetable Oils." The setting for this



R. K. Newton collects the stragglers on leaving Robert Allerton park.

notable event was the University of Illinois at Urbana where 136 technologists in the fields of oil-seeds and oil refining gathered to attend a series of lectures which comprised probably the most concentrated and instructive program ever devoted to oil-seed technology. Students and faculty alike were impressed by the staggering amount of information presented by an imposing battery of America's foremost specialists in the field.

Plans for the Short Course appeared in earlier issues of the Journal. Its purpose was to provide for all interested in vegetable oil technology a means for learning all phases of their industry. Eminent authorities detailed the how's and why's of plant operation, the characteristics of competitive processes and processing equipment, the uses of their products, and a multitude of equally engrossing subjects. The program started with a session

on raw materials, followed on the next day by one on oil production. Two subsequent sessions were devoted to the processing of vegetable oils, and lectures on the concluding day of classes covered utilization. The value of the course could be judged by the attentiveness of the audience, the lively discussions—and arguments—which followed each lecture, the punctuality, and the consistent attendance. No one played hooky.

Course work extended also to inspection of the soybean mill operated by Swift and Company at Champaign, where 12 screw presses are employed for processing about 10,000 bushels of soybeans per day. The plant is being augmented by solvent extraction facilities, which now are under construction.

On Saturday, the final day of the course, a trip was taken to Decatur and Taylorville, Illinois. In the former city officials of the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company held open house in their solvent extraction plant, which handles approximately 500 tons of soybeans per day, and in their refinery, which probably is the world's largest devoted entirely to the production of salad oil. The raw materials include both crude soybean and crude corn oils. At Taylorville an equally informative exhibit of a new solvent extraction mill

was afforded by Allied Mills inc. This plant incorporates many novel features which most Short Course students had not previously had an opportunity to see.

THE size of the group was limited in order to promote discussion for the students in many cases were themselves experts on the respective topics. In attendance were students who represented industries and institutions in 22 states and five foreign countries. An atmosphere of friendliness was heightened by several fine extracurricular events, during which arguments that started in the sessions were continued with ample good-natured heckling and banter. These affairs included a social gathering at the Faculty Lounge in the Illini Union Building, a visit to Robert Allerton Park, and a fish fry.

An informal banquet, punctuated with extemporaneous oratory, added color to the otherwise scholarly proceedings. Each student received from the University of Illinois, a certificate, which does not, as claimed by some, confer on the recipients the degree of B.O. (Bachelor of Oils).

The manner in which all activities were conducted precisely as scheduled testifies to the intense preparations and able administration of the Extension Division of the University of Illinois. Particular credit is due to Prof. T. S. Hamilton, coordinator of the Short Course, and R. K. Newton, extension specialist in technical education. No less commendation is deserved by the sponsors of the undertaking, namely, the Education Committee of the American Oil Chemists' Society, comprised of J. C. Harris, chairman; A. R. Baldwin; R. R. King; H. R. Kraybill; and R. T. Milner. All worked hard to assure success of the venture.

Proceedings of the course, i.e., transcripts of the lectures, will be mimeographed and a limited number can be obtained if ordered promptly from the American Oil Chemists' Society, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Illinois.

The Education Committee has not announced yet whether another Short Course will be held. The first one was such an overwhelming success, however, that the Committee is faced not with the task of deciding whether, but instead, of determining when, where, on what subjects, by whom, and for whom, to conduct another Short Course.

The Scientists' and Engineers' Association, Rock Rimmon Road, Stamford, Conn., recently organized as a non-profit corporation, has established an employment service for chemists, engineers, and other scientists.



One of the younger guests is the daughter of Leon H. Brachman, Marco Chemical Company, Fort Worth, Tex.

Camera Record of the Short Course



Student Body Poses at Short Course



Ah, the fish fry! Note the hungry looks.



Above: Sitting pretty—Chu, Cheng, and Cheng with a friend.



At right: John B. Khu, who took these pictures, is shown with statuary group on U. of I. campus, Urbana.



Warren H. Goss Addresses Class

Talks On Cotton Research

WORK of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans was discussed in some detail by Leonard Smith, technical director, utilization research, National Cotton Council of America, Washington, D. C., in an address entitled "Cotton Counts Its Opportunities Through the Research and Marketing Act" before the Cotton Research Congress in Dallas on July 23.

The program developing out of the act contains a concept of tremendous significance, according to Mr. Smith: that of cooperation between government and industry in furthering research. "In application, this concept is seen in the establishment of the Advisory committees," he said, "also in the selection of the industry's proposals for active research."

In the New Orleans laboratory there are two phases of research: fundamental characteristics of cotton fiber as a mean of developing entirely new uses and the development of new and improved products. Experimental work under the former includes the following:

1. Microscopical evaluation of the swelling of fibres as a basis for new types of protective fabrics.
2. Study of changes in the cellulose of cotton fiber upon oxidation and discovery of new methods for eliminating or substantially reducing the deleterious effects produced by such oxidation.
3. Chemical bonding of cotton fiber with resins for the purpose of producing new cotton products.

4. Improvement of elastic recovery of cotton fiber by chemical modification.
5. Energy relations in performance of mechanical cotton goods.
6. Estimation of immaturity in cotton by means of dyeing.

Under the latter phase is embraced research in weaving, warmth of garments, cotton filler for plastic laminates, resistance of bagging to insects and rodents, and water-resistant fabrics.

New Committee Appointed

A NEW committee of the American Oil Chemists' Society, to be known as the Soapstock Analysis Committee, has just been appointed by C. P. Long, president. Its problem is essentially determining the organic matter other than total fatty acid in soapstock. Personnel is as follows:

Procter Thomson, chairman, Procter and Gamble, Cincinnati.

E. W. Blank, Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company, Jersey City, N. J.

J. J. Ganucheau, Southern Cotton Oil Company, New Orleans.

D. L. Henry, Law and Company, Atlanta, Ga.

R. R. King, Mrs. Tucker's Foods inc., Sherman, Tex.

B. N. Rockwood, Swift and Company, Chicago.

N. W. Ziels, Lever Brothers Company, Edgewater, N. J.