

NEW MEMBERS - - a Report and Forecast

THE constitution of the American Oil Chemists' Society establishes five classes of membership and describes their qualifications. The by-laws provide for a committee on membership, and the method of election of new members. A committee of five was chosen this year to serve with the vice president and the secretary. They were selected to give a wide geographical distribution and a diversity of interests. They were charged with obtaining new members and maintaining the high standards of the Society. In the search for sources of potential members use was made of the registration lists of the two Society meetings and the Short Course. Each member participated in solicitation of these groups and also worked fields in which he had a special interest.

One very significant factor in our membership growth is the number of unsolicited applications received. This reflects the excellent promotional work of previous committees but is also a tribute to the importance of the American Oil Chemists' Society in the field of oils and fats.

Geographically, these new members represent 27 states, and 12 foreign countries. The greatest number of applications came from Illinois (35), followed by California (24), New Jersey (24), and Texas (18). Five or more new members came from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Canada led the foreign countries with 7.

An analysis of the qualifications of 196 new active members is as follows:

- 10 by training and experience (average 19 years)
- 22 with college work—no degree
- 100 with a B.S. degree or equivalent
- 34 with an M.S. degree
- 30 with a Ph.D. degree.

Naturally our greatest source of membership has come from manufacturers or processors of fats and oils. Independent laboratories, government laboratories, and consultants form the next important groups. They are followed by equipment manufacturers and distributors, then universities, and colleges. The miscellaneous and unclassified groups are an important segment. These divisions will always provide members. Future committees will establish new trends and tap new or undeveloped sources.

With 233 new members this year, and the loss of 256 through death, resignation, and non-payment of dues, the Society had, as of April 1, a total membership of 1,798. Of this number 1,592 are active members, 89 individual associate, 113 corporation associate, and 4 honorary. (Since April 1 the figure of 256 has been substantially reduced by belated payments.)

THE question might be asked, why do we want more members? The answer to this is that the Society has provided the membership with certain services which cost money. These can only be maintained or expanded as the membership is held at its present level or increased. Not many members would want to see any curtailment in the Journal, the Book of Methods, or some other services that have become recognized as valuable.

A word to our new members: we hope you will enjoy your affiliation with the American Oil Chemists' Society. The benefits you derive will largely depend on you. We would like to see you participate in the various activities whenever possible. Your individual contribution can help us in our future progress.

The American Oil Chemists' Society has something to offer besides the usual material services. Some feel that it is unique in that its members have enjoyed a spirit of fellowship rarely found in such an organization. We are proud of the fact that it is well managed, that its technical committees are active and well organized. We are proud of the Journal and the Short Course and know the annual meetings are worthwhile. But the association with fellow members, and the friendship that develops and lasts through the years, is one of its greatest assets.

Fifteen years ago, when our total membership was 354, the idea was expressed that if all sources of membership were thoroughly covered, we might obtain a figure of 1,000. We now approach 2,000. What can we reasonably expect in the next five years? No one can answer that question with certainty, but we have every reason to expect further growth, and the addition of 1,000 members in that time may be possible.

J. R. MAYS JR.