

Cumulative Index: 1917-52, the Experience of 35 Years

FOR several years the continuing demand for a cumulative index of the Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society has been an important challenge to the staff, but there seemed to be no volunteer indexers at hand or funds with which to pay for professional indexing. Finally the staff made a start last February and by diligent effort has brought the work nearly to completion. Separate indexes for authors, technical subjects, committee reports, and news articles provide references for the more than 15,000 pages published under the auspices of the Society during the past 35 years.

Exact plans for distribution will be announced as soon as approximate costs and publication date are known.



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Looking back on the accomplishment to date, the staff believes that the hundreds of hours devoted to the task will have been well spent because the index will make readily accessible the vast amount of useful information published by the Society. Few persons could otherwise be aware of the wealth of data, ideas, and experience described by the authors and committee chairmen who have written for the Journal. It has been an enlightening and worthwhile experience (although admittedly tedious at times) to review this material, but others will soon be able to share the experience easily by referring to the index.

AS the work has progressed, it has been interesting to note the efforts of early governing and editorial boards to develop a creditable journal. Problems of obtaining suitable editorial material and advertising support were ever present. (Incidentally, E. H. Sargent and Company, Chicago, was the first advertiser 35 years ago.

The determination to obtain high quality papers has been maintained during the 35 years of publication. The admirable persistence of the men who pioneered in establishing the journal has been continued by their predecessors. The Chemists' Section of the Cotton Oil Press grew from a few pages in 1917 to a self-supporting Journal of the Oil and Fat Industries in 1924. By 1932 the publication name was changed to Oil and Soap; in 1947 the present name was adopted, thus increasing the scientific appeal.

But ahead of all this growth was the foresight of the first editor of the Journal of Oil and Fat Industries, H. S. Bailey, who commented as follows in the first issue in 1924:

There is a very evident need for a first-class journal in the English language broad enough in its scope to cover all phases of the chemistry and technology of edible fats, oils, and greases; at the same time sufficiently limited so that the scientific investigators, works' chemists, engineers, and managers will not find it necessary to peruse a large volume of literature in order to find the few pages on the subjects in which they are interested.

As the field of chemistry grows, the number of contributions offered for publication in such journals as those of the American Chemical Society, the British Chemical Society, and the Society of Chemical Industry increases. A natural consequence of this rapid multiplication of records of laboratory researches and plant problems is a delay, often of many months, in the publication of valuable material.

Because of the restricted field covered by the Journal of Oil and Fat Industries, papers accepted for publication can be printed within a short time after they have been passed by the Board of Editors, thus rendering a distinct service to both the authors and their fellow workers.

Inspiration passed along from Mr. Bailey to one editorial staff after another has now culminated in the *magnum opus*, the preparation of a cumulative index covering a 35-year period and about 15,000 references, to make available to all in the field of oils and fats the technical data and experience of past research. Now, more than ever, the Journal, through the cumulative index about to be published and the annual indexes to come, fulfills the basic need of the industry for concentration of pertinent material and for rapid publication. It has become internationally recognized as a leading publication in the field of animal, vegetable, and marine fats and oils and their allied products (including oil cake meals, soaps, synthetic detergents, drying oils protective coatings, fatty acids, and fatty acid derivatives). The dreams and predictions of the founders appear to be coming true.

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