

The International Society For Fat Science

IN 1950 I HAD THE HONOR to write a guest editorial about the German Association for Fat Science (DGF). Two viewpoints were influencing the foundation of this association, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. First was the steady progress of science and technology, and second was the desire to unite the chemists, biologists, medics, pharmaceutical chemists, engineers, and agricultural scientists into a mutually profitable working team. In order to put these fundamental principles into international scope I proposed to many foreign professional colleagues, who were present at the DGF convention at Hanover in 1953, the establishment of an international society for fat science. It concerns a novel society for which the name society is not proper in all concepts because it should exist without a president, vice president, and treasurer and without membership fees.



H. P. Kaufmann

In this manner there is a possibility of having representatives of science and technology working together without having the difficulty which became apparent in the past because of political resentment, questions of national prestige, and personal animosity. The members of the new society should assemble, independent of political considerations and national organizations, for the purpose of an exchange of views through lectures and discussions. The chairman should be supplied by the country in which the organization happens to meet. The little organizing and clerical work involved can be undertaken by a standing secretary. Since Unesco declined financial means for the office of secretary (Prof. G. Gorbach, Graz, Technische Hochschule), these are being raised through voluntary contributions. In the past year the American Oil Chemists' Society has participated in a gratifying manner.

This proposal when drawn up into an appeal will be signed by various professional colleagues. We should be satisfied with the results from this appeal and believe we can assume that this novel form of international association will be successful. It should also serve to assist national organizations in our field, such as already exist in several countries (American Oil Chemists' Society, DGF, etc.), and other plans are to invite the members of the international society to participate in lectures and discussions.

Accordingly a combined meeting was arranged in Münster with the DGF in 1955 and one with the Italian colleagues in Milano (Prof. Jacini, president) in 1956. In 1957 the presidency will be in France, and the organization will meet in Paris during the week following Pentecost (Whit-sunday) (Dr. Paquot, president).

THERE ALREADY EXISTED during previous decades a form of international cooperation in which well-known chemists participated. This organization originated within the Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and still exists today as a committee. Although comprising chemists from a number of countries, it deals only with the standardization of analytical methods, a problem in which the new international society is not interested.

Modern means of transportation facilitate the convening of scientists and technologists of all countries. A flight from Frankfurt to New York will not take more time than a train trip within Germany from Berlin to Munich.

It is therefore to be hoped that the professional colleagues from across the ocean will be able to exchange ideas with their colleagues in European and other countries within the framework of the International Society for Fat Science.

H. P. KAUFMANN, President
Deutschen Gesellschaft für
Fettwissenschaft e. V.
Münster, Germany