

The Why, How, and Where of A.O.C.S.-A.S.T.M. Relations

I VERY CORDIALLY extend greetings to the members of the A.O.C.S. on behalf of our board, the members, and the staff of the American Society for Testing Materials. In so doing, I am quite conscious that there are many members of A.S.T.M. who not only hold membership but who are active in the important work of your Society.

As a national technical society which has been concerned for more than 60 years with research and standards for materials, A.S.T.M. has enjoyed very close relations with many professional and technical societies and trade associations. Currently there are some 250 such groups participating in our work.

In this period when engineers and scientists are so busy and their time is so valuable, there must be good justification for leading men to be working in two or more organizations. Our A.S.T.M. work concerns strictly materials, largely materials of engineering. Those therefore who are concerned with this tremendous field participate in the work, hold membership, obtain and use the publications. Many will hold membership in their own professional society which has its own special or peculiar problems. Where the professional group is also interested in research and standards work which impinges on the field of materials, joint relations are frequently established; this is the situation with A.S.T.M. and A.O.C.S.

Some of the materials of joint interest include drying oils, fatty acids, naval stores, soaps and detergents, preservative coatings and related materials. There are separate technical committees in the Society with numerous subcommittees covering problems in these fields, usually allied to getting authoritative information on the properties of materials, then developing standardized test methods and specifications. We have such committees as D-17 on Naval Stores; D-1 on Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Materials; D-2 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants (which committee has more than 1,200 members on its mailing list and at an annual meeting of the Society may have 100 distinct meetings) and Committee D-12 on Soaps and Detergents. Perhaps the work of the last committee is the one of most concentrated interest to A.O.C.S., and it is pleasant to acknowledge the fine cooperation in this committee's activities.

A.S.T.M. work in research and standardization cuts horizontally right across all industries and societies. It involves the field of both ferrous and nonferrous metals; cementitious construction and related materials; and a host of miscellaneous materials including plastics, textiles, cellulose materials, fuels, materials used in nuclear reactors, etc.

WHY ARE THERE A.O.C.S. relations with Committee D-12? It seems obvious that the work of this group in developing sound, authoritative data on the properties and tests of soaps and detergents and the constituent materials which will lead to recognized standard test methods and eventually in many areas to specifications is basic and of strategic importance to both the producers and consumers who are represented in A.O.C.S. This situation holds with other A.S.T.M. technical committees though it is only in D-12 where there is official A.O.C.S. representation. Perhaps this should be extended to other committees even though there is a good crossover of membership.

The Committee D-12, Subcommittee T-2 on Analysis of Soaps and Synthetic Detergents, jointly sponsored by A.O.C.S. and A.S.T.M., is almost a small society by itself with more than 25 working task groups and subcommittees. Other problems occupying the work of subcommittees, whose membership ranges from 15 to 30 members, include analysis of dry-cleaning materials and inorganic alkaline detergents, physical testing, interpretation of data, analysis of metal cleaners, and finally specifications work for soaps and detergents and the other materials covered by tests. The latest compilation of standards on soaps and detergents (176 pages) notes that there are 16 methods of analysis covering these materials; 17 specifications cover soaps, and nine apply to various alkaline detergents. Many more will be forthcoming. While the voting membership is indicated as 118 members, many more are on the mailing list serving as representatives of companies which have been elected to the committee. So this operation is no small activity. The committee meetings extend over two or three days; frequently technical papers are presented.

It is hoped the above comments answer the questions *Why?* *How?* and *Where?* of the joint relations of the two societies. *Why*, the work on standards and research for materials, is extremely significant to both organizations; *How*, through joint activities and through individual efforts of the members serving on the committees; *Where*, in various materials fields of concern. There may be others in which A.O.C.S. should be participating. This would be very much welcomed by A.S.T.M.

Management should not and cannot allow its valuable engineers and scientists to be duplicating efforts. This is one of the soundest reasons for joint activity. The A.S.T.M. through its time-tested procedures can provide the machinery for continuing progress in the field of materials. Professional and scientific organizations such as A.O.C.S. can help provide important data; the skill and knowledge

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Report on Fats and Oils

The Eternal Struggle

a drama in one scene

SCENE: *A soybean mill, late in September 1958. The machinery is still, and the whole building is deserted and quiet. It is getting dark, but the lights have not been turned on yet. There are a few drums of SOYBEAN OIL in a corner and nearby some sacks of SOYBEAN MEAL. A few SOYBEANS are lying around.*

SOYBEAN OIL: That was a pretty nasty trick you played on me.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Who, me?

SOYBEAN OIL: Yes, you.

SOYBEAN MEAL: What did I do?

SOYBEAN OIL: You know perfectly well what you did. I guess you just couldn't stand seeing things go my way. I had glamor, excitement, P.L. 480, and a price chart with more curves in it than the old Post Road. Now look at me! I haven't a friend left.

SOYBEAN MEAL: That doesn't surprise me—after the way you treated them. You disappointed a lot of people last year, you know. And furthermore I *don't* know perfectly well what I did.

SOYBEAN OIL: How can you stand there and say that? Things would have been just fine if it hadn't been for you. I was really in demand for a while, you know; and there were a lot of things helping me along. There wasn't much cottonseed oil around, and there never was as much lard as people thought there would be. I'd like to have seen them get along without me. They wanted me all over the world. I was a sensation in Spain.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Yeah!

SOYBEAN OIL: Don't "yeah" me!

SOYBEAN MEAL: Okay, okay, but I don't know why you're mad at me. What did I do?

SOYBEAN OIL (*furiously*): You know perfectly well what you did.

SOYBEAN MEAL: You said that before. That's the way my wife answers questions.

SOYBEAN OIL: All right, I'll tell you what you did. They made too much of me.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Now tell me what I did!

SOYBEAN OIL: Well, you made them make too much of me. If they hadn't needed so much of you, they wouldn't have made so much of me. That was what ruined me. Too much of a good thing. Look what happened to the sack dress.

SOYBEANS: Now Soybean Oil, don't feel that way about Soybean Meal. I don't know what I'd have done without him last year. Besides I love you both very much, and I hate to see you argue like this. I wish the best to both of you.

SOYBEAN OIL: Of course you do, but you're just thinking of yourself.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Oh, don't be such a crab! It wasn't my fault that I was so popular this year. It was those fancy prices for livestock. I'm sure glad that there didn't turn out to be as many hogs as they predicted. If there had been, hog prices wouldn't have been so high and farmers probably wouldn't have wanted so much of me.

SOYBEAN OIL: Bully for you!

SOYBEAN MEAL: Well, you should feel good about the hog thing, too. After all, it meant less lard and a greater demand for you.

SOYBEANS: We're all glad about the hog thing.

MILL OPERATOR (*from the office*): Amen!

SOYBEAN OIL: Well, maybe next year will be different. There'll be more hogs, you know. That means lower hog prices and less demand for you.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Prove it!

SOYBEAN OIL: I can't prove it.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Of course you can't. You'll just have to wait and see. Anybody can prove though that more

hogs mean more lard. That won't do you any good. And there'll be more cottonseed oil too. You might as well face facts, you know. Everybody's saying that I'll be as much in demand next year as last year, maybe more so. It's you they're worried about.

SOYBEAN OIL: I can read the papers as well as you can. I know what they're saying.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Would you be interested in some friendly advice? It worked like a charm for me.

SOYBEAN OIL: Start talking!

SOYBEAN MEAL: Well, I attribute my success to the fact that all the while that you were stealing the show, I was doing everything I could to make myself more attractive. The quickest way to become popular, you know, is through price.

SOYBEAN OIL: For goodness sakes! Haven't I done enough in that direction? What I need is a good press agent.

SOYBEAN MEAL: You had a lot of good press agents last year, but you let them all down. I don't blame them for being wary of you. If you take my advice, you'll become more reasonable. Then maybe you'll become more popular. You have a tremendous potential overseas, you know, but you also have a lot of competition. Peanut oil is very attractive in Europe.

SOYBEANS: Down with Peanut Oil!

SOYBEAN OIL: *Up* with peanut oil, you silly old man. Anyway what makes you think I'm not already reasonable enough? I'd hate to be *too* reasonable.

SOYBEAN MEAL: Just like a woman!

SOYBEAN OIL: Well, never you mind. My day will come. My public will never forget me. I know that way down deep they really like me more than you. I'm very attractive right now. One of these days I'll be wanted all over the world, and there won't be enough of me to go around.

SOYBEAN MEAL: There's more where you came from.

SOYBEAN OIL: The same goes for you.

SOYBEANS: Oh, hush!

Curtain

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A.O.C.S. Commentary

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of its members are effective in helping to establish standards. Especially they can help in stimulating a wider use of the "products" which come from technical committee activities. In this era of an exploding technology the officers and members of A.S.T.M. believe there is great merit in extending joint society activities and responsibilities.

The Brazilians, who are, like those of us in the United States, vitally concerned with research and standards for materials, say in their language, "Muitas Felicidade."

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Food Technologists Offer Award

THE Institute of Food Technologists has announced the establishment of a Food Technology Industrial Achievement Award to honor an outstanding food process and/or product which represents a significant advance in the application of food technology to food production. It must have been successfully applied in actual commercial operation for not less than six months or more than four years prior to September 15, 1958.

Any member of the Institute may send nominations for the award, in letter form, to the Institute office, 176 W. Adams street, Chicago, Ill. The award will consist of plaques for the individual(s) and the company or institution concerned.