

AOAC Changes Name to Association of Official Analytical Chemists

The AOAC (Association of Official *Agricultural* Chemists), an organization of Federal and State chemists voted to change its name to Association of Official *Analytical* Chemists at its last annual meeting. This organization was founded in 1884 as the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists by H. W. Wiley of the USDA and a number of State chemists for the purpose of developing, testing, standardizing, and validating methods of analysis required in the enforcement of laws dealing with agricultural commodities. The first methods published by the Association dealt only with fertilizers but the work expanded into other areas such as animal feeds and dairy products, and with the passage of the Food and Drug Act of 1906, to all foods and drugs. As additional laws were passed by Congress and the States, the Association's program covered pesticides (1910), cosmetics, and extraneous material (evidence of insect and rodent attack of agricultural commodities) (1938), pesticides (1954), food additives (1957), hazardous substances (1960), and this year drugs subject to abuse (1965). The most recent programs for consideration by the Association are expansion of the microbiological area and methods required for the control of air and water pollution.

The results of the Association's work are published in its 957-page volume "Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists" which is soon to be released. Text for this book was set before the name was changed. The methods in this volume are used by Federal and State agencies in their regulatory work. They are accepted by the courts as a source of valid methods of analysis to determine the legality of food and agricultural products and other commodities of interest to agriculture and public health. They are also used by industry to determine whether their products will meet the law before they are introduced in the channels of trade and in contracts and specifications.

Further information on the Association's activities and publications may be obtained from the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, Box 540, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.

• Industry Items

E. H. SARGENT & COMPANY, has opened a new warehouse, sales and service facility in the Woodlawn Industrial Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. Other Sargent locations are in Denver; Birmingham, Ala.; Detroit; Anaheim, Calif.; Dallas; Springfield, N. J.; and Weston, Ontario.

W-K-M VALVE DIVISION OF ACF INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED, has appointed three distributors to handle DynaSeal ball and ACF plug valves for processing industries, utilities, and general industrial plants. The firms are: in Louisiana, Alloy Supply and Valve Co., Baton Rouge; in Ohio, Malone Day Company, Warren; in Wisconsin, W. S. Patterson Co., Appleton.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL SUPPLY CORPORATION and W. H. CURTIN & COMPANY (Houston) have terminated a mutual merger agreement entered into in December of last year. The action was prompted by uncertainties and delays arising out of a Justice Department suit seeking to enjoin transaction.

GALLARD-SCHLESINGER CHEMICAL MFG. CORP. has taken over exclusive US distribution for commercial, research, and laboratory chemicals produced by British Drug Houses, Ltd., Dorset, England. Bulletins covering the products of the B.D.H. line are available, and with a few exceptions, free upon request. (580 Mineola Ave., Carle Place, Long Island, New York.)

2nd International Symposium on Drugs Affecting Lipid Metabolism

The 2nd International Symposium on drugs affecting lipid metabolism was held in Milan, Italy, Sept. 13-15, 1965. Like the first symposium, the second symposium was well organized, the papers presented reflected the current status of the field, and audience participation was quite vigorous. The Organization and Advisory Committees, and especially the Scientific Secretary, Rudolfo Paoletti, deserve credit for organizing an exceptionally fine symposium. The President of the symposium, E. Trabucchi, and the representative of the Advisory Committee, D. Steinberg, presented opening addresses. Prof. F. Lynen opened the scientific program with a lecture entitled, "Mechanism and Biological Regulation of Fatty Acid Synthesis." This lucid and thorough lecture set the tone of the entire symposium at a very high level.

Among the many excellent formal sessions were those which discussed 1) drugs affecting cholesterol metabolism, 2) drugs affecting lipid metabolism and deposition, 3) lipid mobilization from adipose tissue, 4) drugs and atherosclerotic processes, 5) control of plasma lipid levels, 6) drugs depressing plasma lipids, 7) drugs interfering with liver triglyceride levels. In addition to these formal symposia, an opportunity was available for members of the symposia to present short communications on these and related topics. An evening session was held in which "current research on determination and biological function of lipid soluble vitamins" was discussed. Special mention should be made of an excellent symposium organized by Sune Bergström in which the chemistry, physiology and pharmacology of prostaglandins was discussed at great length. Papers were presented on the isolation, structure, biosynthesis and metabolism of the prostaglandins. The metabolism of prostaglandin in man was discussed and the autoradiographic distribution studies of prostaglandin was presented. There was a discussion of the inter-relations between pharmacological and metabolic effect of prostaglandin E1 and a consideration of differential effects of prostaglandin E1 on lipolysis. A discussion of the prostaglandins in brain was presented, followed by a paper which described excitatory action of prostaglandin E1 on single neurons in the brain.

A mention of the names of a few of the chairmen of the various sessions illustrates the quality of this very important symposium: W. O. Lundberg (USA), B. Mandel (France), S. Bergström (Sweden), S. Garattini (Italy), D. D. Steinberg (USA), L. Carlsson (Sweden), M. Wenke (Czechoslovakia), E. Horning (USA), G. Jacini (Italy), W. L. Holmes (USA), R. Santi (Italy), H. Peeters (Belgium), G. Schettler (Germany), and many others.

The final session consisted of a very entertaining and informative lecture by H. M. Sinclair of Oxford. Thus, the outstanding high quality of the symposium was maintained from the first lecture until the closing session.

Fortunately, the entire proceedings of the symposium will be published in book form and will be available to all interested in drugs and lipids. Already, plans are being formulated for the 3rd International Symposium.

S. J. Strianse Honored in Milan, Italy

At the fifth Council Meeting Dinner of the International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists, S. J. Strianse, past president of the Federation received a plaque commemorating long and distinguished service to the International Federation. The dinner was sponsored by The Croda Organization, Ltd., whose Chairman and Managing Director is F. A. S. Wood, Yorkshire, England. Also present at the dinner were Jack Wilkinson, immediate past President of the Federation from Britain, and Paolo Rovesti, President of the Italian Section.