Weisberg to Head LIFE

S. M. Weisberg, recently retired Director of Research and Development at National Dairy Products Corporation, Glenview, Illinois, has been appointed Executive Director of the League for International Food Education (LIFE). The announcement was made by A. N. Prater, president of LIFE.

Dr. Weisberg will be the administrative head of a consortium of six scientific organizations which will provide information and assist in solving technical problems in nutrition programs in the developing areas of the world. LIFE has just signed an agreement with the Agency for International Development (AID) for this work.

The office of LIFE will be The American Chemical Society Building, 1155 16th Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., so that it will have ready access to AID's Office of the War on Hunger, chief recipient of the consortium's services. Along with the American Oil Chemists' Society, the organizations forming the nonprofit corporation are: American Chemical Society; Institute of Food Technologists; American Institute for Nutrition; Volunteers for International Technical Assistance; and American Association of Cereal Chemists.

• *New Products*

APPLIED SCIENCE LABORATORIES, INC. announces "Prekotes," a new type of precoated thin-layer chromatography plate. To make them, Adsorbosil-5 (Applied Science's own silica gel adsorbent) is coated on 20 × 20 cm × 1/16 in. glass plates to give a uniform and strongly adhering 250-μ thick layer. Each plate is individually packaged in a resealable polyethylene envelope so that after development the plate can be stored in its original envelope. Since Prekotes contain no organic material they can be heated with the usual reagents for charring. Excellent separations have been obtained with a large number of compound classes, ranging from steroids to barbiturates. Each box of Prekotes contains 25 precoated TLC plates.

APPLIED SCIENCE LABORATORIES, INC. announces the availability of septums (discs, plugs, and sheet), made from a new silicone rubber which possesses superior stability and longer injection life at all temperatures up to 300C. Discs are available in 1/2 and 3/8 in. sizes, plugs are 6 × 8 mm, sheet is 12 × 12 in.

The development of a Tri-Carb Liquid Scintillation Spectrometer System that provides the absolute activity levels of each of the isotopes in the samples has been announced by PACKARD INSTRUMENT CO. (2200 Warrenville Rd, Downers Grove, Illinois).

Designated the Model 544 Absolute Activity Analyzer, the new instrument operates on the principle of Automatic External Standardization, a widely used method for determining the counting efficiency of liquid scintillation samples. However, with the new system there is no requirement to prepare efficiency correlation curves and to refer them manually to each sample. Instead, the equivalent of an efficiency correlation curve is programmed into the unit initially, utilizing sets of ten quenched standards for each isotope to be counted. From that point on, the instrument operates completely automatically. As soon as each unknown sample is introduced into the counting chamber, an automatic standardization procedure takes place and the system determines exactly the counting efficiencies to be used in the computations required to provide the absolute activity level for that particular sample.

Four double-label samples, the unit not only determines the necessary efficiency factors for the computation, but also solves the appropriate double-label equation. It presents the final absolute activity level for each isotope, both as a continuous display and also as typed data at the completion of each count.