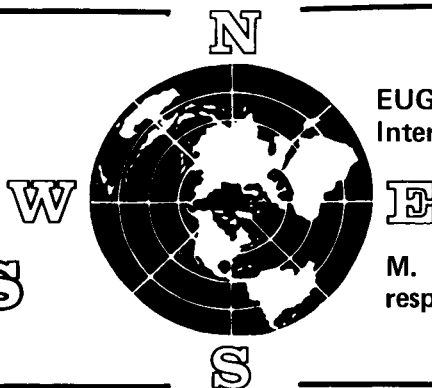


Four

Corners



**EUGENE MARSHACK, Chairman,
International Relations Committee**

**M. BERGEL and J. POKORNY, Cor-
responding Secretaries**

Czechoslovakia Jan Pokorny

Meeting on Detergents and Other Surface Active Agents

Twenty-three papers were presented in three sections at this meeting, organized by the Fat and Detergent Section of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society, in Bojnice, Slovakia, November 20-21, 1975. A group of papers concerned the manufacturing of surface active agents, e.g., alkanolamides (B. Kral et al.), polymeric nonionic detergents (L. Novak), alkanol sulfates (M. Morak et al.), and propylene oxide-alcohol condensates (T. Petrus). The effect of a catalyst on the formation of free polyethylene glycols (M. Paulovic) and the activity of polymeric esterification catalysts (M. Bares et al.) were discussed. Among the analytical papers, the following were of particular interest: determination of chelating agents in detergents (I. Zeman and K. Kaufman), comparison of the Weibull method and cation exchange method for the determination of free polyethyleneglycols in alkylaminopolyethyleneglycol ether (M. Bares et al.), and the gas-liquid chromatographic analysis of alkanolamides (B. Kral et al.; L. Jiraskova et al.). V. Matejkova reported on the foaming activity of detergents, and D. Matulova on the effect of some surface active agents on algae and bacteria.

International Committee on the Analysis of Detergents

The International Analytical Committee (CIA) of the International Committee of Surface Active Agents (CID) convened in Prague on October 2-3, 1975. Dr. M. Bares, chairman of the Czechoslovak National Committee, Analytical Section, opened the meeting. Dr. Pietermaat presided over the sessions, and the General Secretary of CID, Mr. Bidault, presented the Annual Report. The following analytical methods were discussed: inorganic components of washing powders, alkylsulfonates after Kupfer, inorganic sulfates in organic sulfates and sulfonates, sulfates of polyethoxylated alcohols and alkylphenols, ratio of ethyleneglycol and propylene glycol units in surface active agents by pyrolysis chromatography, ethoxylated fatty amines, and determination of free polyethylene glycol after Weibull and by means of ion exchange chromatography. Several analytical methods were accepted for examination: determination of traces of cationic agents in water solutions, determination of alkanolamides, determination of hydrotropic substances, analysis of alkylphosphates (non-phosphated material, mono- and dialkyl phosphates), and determination of traces of nonionic agents.

New Officers Elected

New officers of the Fat, Oil, and Detergent Section of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society were elected: Dr. L. Novak, president; Dr. J. Cmolik, vice-president; Dr. J. Pokorny, honorary secretary; Mr. B. Sova, honorary treasurer; and Mr. M. Malenicky, past president.

Argentina M. Bergel

Obesity and Congestive Cardiac Insufficiency

L. Press has observed that, in most cases, obesity is a determinant factor in congestive cardiac insufficiency, which increases in frequency with age and degree of obesity. Among the obese, congestive cardiac insufficiency—a chronic, progressive, and insidious disease—can be permanently reversed by loss of weight and maintenance of normal weight.

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In other studies, Press points out the danger of diabetes in pregnancy and the importance of early diagnosis to protect the mother and child from the effects of metabolic alterations caused by the disease. He gives results obtained in a study of 245 pregnant women, 64.4% of whom had family histories of diabetes, and methods and maternal-fetal antecedents. According to Press, pregnant women with family histories of diabetes should undergo routine treatment for the disease.

Treatment of Hyperlipoproteinemia

In their research on the highly dietetic and medical treatment of diverse types of hyperlipoproteinemia, R. Garcia Turiella, O.H. Fay, and C.A. Garcia have noted the importance of the specific contribution of the endocrinologist in the treatment of the vascular manifestations of Type III hypolipoproteinemia, which is increasing among OB-GYN patients due to the use of oral contraceptives. Specialists in nephrology and urology as well as ophthalmology and pediatrics have noted increased incidence of hyperlipoproteinemia. In pediatrics, Type I hyperlipoproteinemia must be taken into account, and cholesterol levels in the blood of the umbilical cord must be determined. In this study, the researchers' objective is to clarify and determine the clinical and treatment of the diverse types of hyperlipoproteinemia. Suggestions on possible treatment are being made by representatives of all medical specialties.