
Editorial

ANOTHER MILESTONE REACHED

This issue of the JOURNAL appears in a garb different from any of its predecessors. The type page has been divided into two columns, instead of one as formerly. The type itself is new—smaller, to better utilize the available space; but at the same time heavier and consequently much easier to read. The reader delves through the JOURNAL to find a more friendly atmosphere, the pages beckoning him to read.

The change is more than superficial; a difference in the character of the reading matter is evident. Several of the original papers forsake the laboratory completely. The leading article describing a model cottonseed crushing plant has an almost universal appeal, and although more suggestive than complete in the scope of its treatment, is a discussion of the first importance. Mr. Thurman's review, "What We Do With Our Vegetable Oils," draws an excellent picture of the many ramifications of this industry. William Scheck, dropped in the office the other day from the Holy Land, and recounted to us how other nations are girding their loins with the most modern and efficient weapons of industry to compete with our own oil producers. This thought underlies the article he has written. Mr. Bosart's paper on the metric system is likewise quite universal in its appeal.

In this transformation, the JOURNAL is fulfilling its natural destiny. The founders of the publication

produced the first number along strictly scientific lines nearly four years ago; but even at that very early date the hope was expressed that it one day would serve a wider sphere of usefulness. For two years almost insuperable obstacles prevented its appearance with greater frequency than as a quarterly. Then occurred the second important period in the publication's life history: since the beginning of the current year, an issue has been published every month.

Although the events we have just chronicled have covered a period of only three brief years, they offer a striking and significant parallel to the great industry the publication serves. Like so many other industries, the origin of the production and the utilization of vegetable and animal oils was in the laboratory. These products were not and could not be utilized by industry until the chemist solved the basic problems involved. Indeed, in this respect the work of the chemist has just begun; for who can venture to predict the almost limitless uses to which these products will be put in years to come.

Therefore, it is fitting that the JOURNAL OF OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES should indeed be a journal of industry, as well as of the laboratory. Its policy will be to continue to publish purely scientific papers as before, and to improve this department of the paper in both quantity and quality. To this, however, will be added articles of wider application and interest.—J. T. O.