

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

For the seventeenth time, members of what is now known as the American Oil Chemists' Society are gathered together in their annual meeting. It may be well to look back for a moment and pay homage to the men who, seventeen years ago, formed this society and laid the foundation for the superstructure of which we are now a part. Too rarely do we stop to consider and realize the benefit we derive from the efforts of others. As chemists, it is such a simple matter to follow the directions of printed methods in our analytical work without giving any thought or consideration to the painstaking work and study required to make these methods accurate and workable. Likewise, we obtain suggestions which can be applied to our own industrial problems from the published papers of others, forgetting that the production of these has entailed much labor upon the authors. And so let us take this opportunity to acknowledge our indebtedness to the founders of this society, and to those who have since actively engaged in its affairs, thus bringing it to its present healthy and vigorous condition. And at the same time let us determine to carry on the work untiringly, bending our efforts toward the upbuilding of a larger society, with wider interests, and greater scientific accomplishments.

In looking back over the records of the society we find that in 1919 our membership consisted of one hundred members, while to-day we have more than two hundred and fifty enrolled. While this would indicate a healthy growth, our membership problem is always with us, and the chairmanship of the Membership Committee is no sinecure. Every year we lose many by resignation and suspension, and often it is quite a problem to know how and whence to recruit our ranks. Some months ago it was again suggested that we lose our identity as a separate society by becoming a section of the American Chemical Society. Such a merger would possess few advantages, and many disadvantages. The meetings of the American Chemical Society are already unwieldy, and our problems would be entirely lost in its immense organization. Our only hope for continuous and lasting growth is in the character and interest of our annual meetings, and in the scope and accuracy of our scientific work and attainments as a society. As these are placed on a higher plane from year to year, they will attract the attention of more chemists and create a desire for membership with us.

We should bend our efforts towards simplifying the machinery by which our co-operative work is controlled. About two years ago a Planning Committee was appointed whose duties consisted of giving consideration to the work of the various committees, and suggesting the line along which their work should proceed. We also have a Uniform Methods Committee which is likewise supposed to be in touch with all of the

committees co-operating on methods. We have felt that some sort of central committee, composed of members with diversified interests, among whom the various committees could be apportioned, and whose duty it would be to keep in close touch with the progress of these committees throughout the year, would facilitate obtaining results. Because of the method used in choosing its personnel the Planning Committee could be delegated with these additional duties. We would also urge every member to bear in mind the work of the society and its committees, advise with them about his problems, and assist with suggestions.

The Referee Board has functioned very efficiently during the past year and as a result the certificates for the coming year will all be in the hands of the referee chemists long before the next season begins. Because of questions which have arisen during the past year on the certifying of chemists and laboratories, the Referee Board have several changes to recommend in the existing rules, and these will come before you for your consideration. We merely wish to say that these have been carefully thought out, and in our opinion are for the best interests of all concerned.

THE JOURNAL OF OIL AND FAT INDUSTRIES, which had been published as a quarterly for the past year, was converted into a monthly magazine in January, 1926, and its publication and management was taken over by the Freeman-Palmer Publications of New York. This step was taken after careful consideration by the Governing Committee, and upon approval of the society at the last annual meeting. While sufficient time has not elapsed to pass proper judgment upon the effects of this change we believe that it will ultimately result in great good to the society, and a better journal. Its great need at the present time is for articles of high scientific value, and broader scope, covering the interests of the entire field of fats and oils, not only the industries which produce them, but the related branches which employ them in their manufacturing processes. We, as members of the American Oil Chemists' Society, can assist by submitting papers ourselves, and by advising the editor of possible sources of supply among the scientific men of our acquaintance. The greatest need, however, is for an editor who can devote all of his time to this publication, and we would urge the publishers to use every effort possible to accomplish this end without delay.

When the society assumed, through the Eschenbach Printing Company, the publication of their own journal several years ago, they were not granted the privilege of mailing it as second-class matter. This was taken up with the postal authorities, and after lengthy correspondence THE JOURNAL OF OIL AND FAT INDUSTRIES was entered as second-class matter, and a refund of the postage paid in excess of the second-class rate was allowed. To obtain this concession, however, it was necessary for us to

change the wording of our notices for the payment of dues, and this has been taken care of by our secretary.

A year ago we agreed to petition the American Association for the Advancement of Science for affiliation, and are happy to report that our society was elected to this relation on April 25, 1926, and we are requested to elect a representative at this time, who, according to their requirements, must be a fellow of their association. Any of our members are eligible to membership in the association upon the payment of five dollars, and will be entitled to receive either one of their publications, which may be selected, "Science," or the "Scientific Monthly." We hope that many of our members will avail themselves of this privilege.

A year ago a committee was appointed to endeavor to have our methods published in a loose-leaf form for distribution. This committee has worked faithfully on the subject with very little result. Of late, however, we understand that some interest has been taken in the matter by the publishers of Lefax, and you will doubtlessly be informed of the present status of this proposition a little later.

One of the most important problems of the society to-day, as it has been for many years past, is the color comparison of fats and oils. Many instruments have been tried for this purpose, and none have been found more satisfactory than the old system of using Lovibond color glasses. This matter has been thoroughly discussed with both the Color Committee and with the Committee on the Analysis of Commercial Fats and Oils, and they will bring in recommendations which we commend to your careful consideration, and would strongly urge you to adopt. The more concise we are in the description of our instrument, and the standardization of our color glasses, the more certain we will be that our results will be in agreement.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the American Oil Chemists' Society for the honor they have conferred upon me in electing me to preside over the society as president during the past year. Through this office I have come into contact with a large portion of the membership, and have encountered courtesy and co-operation on every side. The willingness of the members at large to respond to requests for assistance speaks well for the future of the society. I wish to especially commend the work of our secretary. He has at all times been willing and anxious to assist in every way possible, whether the request came from the office of the president, or from a member of the society. As we grow in size and influence, we should possess a greater momentum, and I am looking forward to continued and more rapid progress as the years go by.