

THE DETERMINATION OF DETERGENCY OF SOAP PRODUCTS

SUB-COMMITTEE'S REPORT OF PROGRESS

The problem of evaluating soap products for their detergent value is recognized by all who have worked in this field to be an extremely complex one.

A tentative method for the determination of the detergency of soap products was evolved by this sub-committee, consisting in the washing in a small laboratory washing machine of special design of a piece of cotton fabric soiled in a definite manner, the color of the fabric being recorded before and after soiling by means of a color scale of gray pastes or papers.

The incomplete results obtained in the short time available for this year's program indicate that in its present form the method gives quite variable results in the hands of different operators working on the same samples.

Further and intensive study is needed to determine whether or not the method on which we are working can be so modified and improved as to: (1) give consistent results when used by different operators; and (2) differentiate between soaps of widely different composition and detergent value.

The chairman recommends that work on this detergency test be continued.

L. F. HOYT, Chairman.