

REPORT OF BASIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Basic Research Committee held its annual meeting in Washington, D. C., Thursday and Friday, November 12 and 13, in the Directors' room of the Connor Club, with the following members present: H. J. Morrison, Cincinnati; P. S. Tilson, Houston; Dr. David Wesson, New York, and E. R. Barrow, Chairman, Memphis. L. E. Tolman, Chicago, was unable to be present. Besides the members of the committee there were also present Hon. Christie Benet, General Counsel of the Interstate Cottonseed Crushers Association, and Louis E. Geldert, Assistant to the President and Secretary of the committee. After a two-hour discussion of the problem under investigation the Committee adjourned to pay its respects to the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Jardine, and the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Dunlap, both of whom manifested very great interest in the cooperation going on between the Department and the Cotton Oil Industry.

During the interview Mr. Jardine stressed the impossibility of undertaking any new work with the Department's present allotment of funds; but he assured the Committee that work now under way would be continued as far as it was possible within the present funds available. It was very strongly intimated that financial assistance from the industry itself would be welcomed and would perhaps be the best means of securing increased allotment of funds from the Department. The committee then called on the men actively engaged in the work in their respective laboratories.

Dr. C. A. Browne, Chief, Bureau of Chemistry, being absent from Washington, Dr. W. W. Skinner, Assistant Chief, presided over a very interesting conference, at which there were present, besides the committee, Dr. D. B. Jones, Protein Investigation Laboratory; George F. Bidwell, Cattle Food Investigation Laboratory; Dr. George S. Jamieson, Oil, Fat and Wax Laboratory, and Dr. E. W. Schwartz, Pharmacological Laboratory.

Dr. Jones outlined his work on the isolation and study of the proteins of cottonseed, emphasizing particularly their very high digestibility and striking resemblance to some of the animal proteins.

Dr. Bidwell reviewed some of the activities of the Department with cottonseed meal and other feeds and offered some very valuable suggestions for the improvement of commercial grades which if complied with would be of tremendous benefit to the industry.

Dr. George S. Jamieson outlined to the committee the interesting discoveries made in the progress of his investigations of the constituents of cottonseed oil and the further studies he is conducting in the keeping qualities of crude oils under various conditions.

Dr. Schwartz discussed with the committee the possibility of further studies on gossypol and expressed the opinion that the present state of knowledge on the subject might reasonably be expected to offer a foundation for a practical method of detoxifying cottonseed meal to the immense benefit of the industry.

The Committee next visited Dr. W. W. Stockberger, Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, under whose direction is being studied the problem of developing varieties of cotton yielding maximum fiber value, together with maximum percentage of oil. This work is under the personal supervision of A. F. Sievers, and has been under way for the past four years, in collaboration with the Bureau of Crop Acclimatization. Attention has already been called to a new variety of cotton bred by David R. Coker, a prominent cotton planter, banker and merchant of Hartsville, S. C. Plans were outlined for checking this variety further through the cooperation of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Dr. George E. Holm and his assistant, Mr. Greenbank, made a very interesting report on their studies of the susceptibility of various oils and fats to oxidation and rancidity, which is of particular interest to oleomargarine compound and cooking oil manufacturers.

One of the most enjoyable and beneficial features of this meeting was the luncheon held at the Cosmos Club, the committee having as its guests all of the men actively engaged in the program of research. The occasion afforded a very pleasant opportunity for developing a close friendly relationship, and as expressed by one of the officials present, the discussion of practical problems furnished a new vision in solving some of their difficulties and a new inspiration to them in their work.

The committee is unanimous in its recommendation that the friendly contact and interest already established be fostered and encouraged in every possible way, and also strongly endorses the plan of finding ways and means to render practical financial aid to the Department in this very important and far-reaching work.

E. R. BARROW, *Chairman*