Kreis Test Committee

SIX cooperative samples of corn oil have been distributed and subjected to Kreis Test with results as follows:

Sample No.	Observer 3	4	1	5	2
A	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
F	*	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.(?)
E	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.
D	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.
B	Pos.	Pos.(?)	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
C	Neg.	*	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.

*Not tested—container broken.

The disagreement is marked, although not quite as extreme as the disagreement on the samples of cottonseed oil described in the previous report (*Oil & Fat Industries, July* 1929, pp. 28-9). It seems probable that the principal difficulty is a difference of opinion as to what constitutes a negative or a positive Kreis Test.

Kerr (*Ind. Eng. Chem. 10,* 471-5, [1918]) has already standardized the Kreis Test to the point that reproducible results can be obtained at the same time in any one laboratory but different laboratories do not obtain consistent results.

The above conclusion is reported without recommendation. The committee was appointed to investigate the value of the Kreis Test as an index of rancidity; to accomplish this task by cooperative effort, it would first be necessary to standardize the Kreis Test in such a manner that scattered observers would report consistent results on the same oil sample. It is left for the Society to determine whether it wishes to undertake such standardization of the Kreis Test and, if so, whether a special committee or one of the standing committees should assume responsibility for carrying on the work. Without such standardization, the positive or negative character of a Kreis Test will depend to a considerable extent upon the laboratory in which the test is made.

A. S. RICHARDSON, *Chairman*

New Books

CATALYTIC PROCESSES IN APPLIED CHEMISTRY
by T. P. HILDITCH

D. Van Nostrand Company, New York, 1929.

A comprehensive survey of the most recent work on catalysis, which describes clearly the processes involving catalytic activity, is this latest work from the prolific pen of Dr. Hilditch, who is Campbell Brown, Professor of Industrial Chemistry in the University of Liverpool. The book is characterized by its use of actual examples from modern industry to illustrate the practical use of catalysts. A clear account of each chemical process involving catalysis accompanies the study of the catalyst and of the reaction itself.

A great number of organic reactions which involve the addition of soluble catalysts to form homogeneous phases with the reaction mixture are described. In this class are included organic oxidations, reductions, polymerizations, hydrations, hydrolyses and condensations. Catalysis at the surfaces of colloidal organic compounds (fermentation processes) is also fully discussed. The theoretical aspects of the various kinds of catalysis are examined judicially.

In summary, we recommend this work without hesitation to all those among our readers who are directly interested in any production operation involving catalysis and to all chemical libraries.

A. P. L.

In separating fats from materials such as whale blubber, fish liver or tallow, the materials are intimately mixed with water-absorbing substances such as burnt gypsum or dessicated alum and the oil extracted from the mixture by solvents or by pressure or centrifugal treatment. The residue may be further extracted with steam. Brit. Pat. No. 314,586.

Methods Committee

(*from page 227*)

recommendations for guidance of the new committee to be appointed. The Uniform Methods Committee think that all of the suggestions should be given careful consideration by the new committee.

Moisture Committee

WE recommend that the Moisture Committee be instructed for the season 1930-31 to collect further data covering moisture determinations on the Smalley Foundation Check Meal samples. We urge the Referee Board require all referee chemists to equip themselves with the official moisture oven.

Fat Analysis Committee

NO report was received from this Committee up to the time of the Annual Meeting.

Cottonseed Analysis Committee

WE approve the report of this committee and recommend that it be adopted as a tentative method for the coming year.