ABSTRACTS

David Wesson, Abstract Editor

Iron in fats and soaps may be determined by carefully ashing ten grams and determining the iron in the hydrochloric acid solution of the ash colorimetrically with standard iron solution and potassium sulfocyanate. Soaps are ashed in successive portions; a total of five grams is used and combustion is aided with a few crystals of ammonium nitrate. In a series of experiments on the development of brown spots, the unchanged soaps contained 1.4 to 1.8 milligrams and the discolored soaps up to 9.0 milligrams of iron per kilogram. *Seifensieder-Ztg.* 58, 110-12 (1931).

In a recently described plant for continuous oleic acid distillation, crude oleic acid, the filtrate from the hydraulic fatty acid press, is heated by combustion gases to 340° C. in a special tubular heater; the vapors are passed through a vertical purifying column, from which any nonvaporized liquid portion flows off at the bottom to a soft pitch reservoir, while the pure distilled oleic acid is condensed and gives up its heat to preheaters. *Chem. Abstr.* 25,3187 (1931).

The darkening of fatty acids obtained by the Twitchell process is said not to be due to the addition of sulfuric acid. All reagents used in the catalytic saponification process increase the depth of color of the fatty acids with increase in heating time. The presence of air also increases the color. *J. Soc. Chem. Ind., Japan.* 33, Suppl. Bind. 500-4.

Soap Section Report

THE work of the Soap Section was carried on during this year by the Detergents, Soap Analysis, and Glycerine Analysis Committees.

The Detergents Committee, James G. Vail, Chairman, continued its program on standard soil, and expects to have an interesting and instructive report to present at our meeting next fall. The Soap Analysis Committee, H. P. Trevithick, Chairman, devoted the year to work on developing methods for the determination of unsaponifiable matter in soaps. The committee recommends the adoption of the Fat Committee method for use on pure soaps, containing on rosin, lanolin, or tung oil; and that the committee shall continue to do further cooperative work to develop a method for use on filled soaps containing rosin, lanolin, etc. The Glycerine Analysis Committee, J. T. R. Andrews, Chairman, devoted its time to proving that a discrepancy exists between the results obtained by the specific gravity and bichromate methods of analysis on the one hand and the acetin method on the other, and the committee recommends that further cooperative work be done to determine the cause of such discrepancy.

I wish to make the following recommendations to the society covering the program for the Soap Section for the next year: That the Detergents Committee continue as at present organized until after its report at our next fall meeting. That the Soap Analysis Committee continue its cooperative work on developing a method for determining unsaponifiable matter in filled soaps containing rosin, lanolin, etc. That the Glycerine Analysis Committee continue its cooperative work on the cause of the discrepancy between the analysis of glycerine by the specific gravity and bichromate methods on one hand and the acetin method on the other as proven by the committee work this year. That a committee be appointed to review and revise the Standard Methods of Sampling and Analysis of Soap and Soap Products as adopted by the American Chemical Society and the American Oil Chemists' Society.

I wish to most strongly urge that all the members of the various committees favor their respective chairmen with all possible suggestions in order to broaden the scope of the work of the committee as well as to lighten the burden and responsibilities of the chairman. I wish to thank most heartily the officers of the society, the chairmen and members of the various committees, and the members of the Soap Section for the hearty response, keen interest, and conscientious effort, put forth in behalf of the work by our section during the past year.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, *Chairman*