

Editorial

Service

The service of an individual to his country or to his particular community or to the industry or particular company which he serves should be measured by the actual contributions which he makes to the general welfare of his country, community, industry and company.

It has been truly said that the very foundation of service lies basically in the inherent character of the individual. If a man possesses high ideals and is imbued with an aggressive attention to his business in life he cannot fail to render service, both by the example which he sets and by his actual accomplishments.

Any technical group such as the American Oil Chemists Society merely constitutes a collection of individuals, so that the service which the group may be expected to render to its country, and to the industries which it serves will likewise depend basically upon the high ideals and aggressiveness possessed by the group—and—more specifically, upon the inherent character of the men who make up the group.

No group can be better than the individuals who comprise it. So it is worth while to run through the list of members of the American Oil Chemists' Society in estimating its possibilities for service.

We find still staunchly active in the Society, some of that fine group who founded the Cotton Products Analysts Society, men like Wesson, Campbell, Barrow, Cluff, Paquin, Law, Agee, Smalley, most of them still working shoulder to shoulder with the younger crowd which came into the Society later. The contributions of David Wesson to his company and to the industry are too well known to need repeating; nor need we recount the fact that it was this group of men who took a former waste product—cottonseed oil—and made it so good that it is used daily in the kitchens and on the table in millions of homes, not as the crudely prepared lard compound of early days, but as a fine highly prepared vegetable shortening and as a palatable salad oil.

We could cite many examples of service such as the work of Cluff and other members of the refining committee, in the development of a refining (neutralizing) test so accurate as to make results check amazingly well and to reduce the limits of experimental error to the very minimum on a test where checking had previously been extremely difficult and on which the limits of experimental error were necessarily unusually high. In fact this test, as now accomplished, puts the actual kettle results in the refinery to shame in some cases; whereas, before the test was improved most refiners consistently beat the laboratory results by a very comfortable margin, so that the perfecting of this test not only made checking results between different laboratories possible (and failure to check closely inexcusable), but it constituted a very worth while contribution to the Cottonseed Oil Milling Industry of the country, because it substantially reduced the refining losses assessed against crude cottonseed oil, and it reduced trouble and misunderstanding between the oil millers and refiners.

And the Society is no less proud to include in its membership a group of competent, aggressive, hard hitting chemists who came in after the Society was formed, but who are old enough in the Society to be considered a part of "the old guard," whose contributions to the Society and to the industries and companies which they serve, are likewise inspiring.

The case of our Journal illustrates the fine devotion and service of some of these men, notably the chairman of our Journal Committee. When the Journal was thrown back on our hands, in the very depth of our worst depression, this group took over the Journal, and with the cooperation of the Gillette Publishing Committee, made it a far better journal than it ever had been before, till now it is accepted as one of the leading technical publications. This could only be made possible by the untiring effort of the Journal committee chairman, who has managed to be editor, advertising solicitor, etc., in addition to his regular duties.

Such examples of service should be inspiring to all of us. No wonder, when our membership includes such men, we find our Society highest in point of membership requirements of any technical group in the country, and first in actual *service* rendered to the industries which it serves.

Its members may regard the membership list with pride. New members may well consider active participation in the Society as a definite asset.

Past achievements provide a basis for pardonable pride. May they also be the inspiration for even greater SERVICE for the future.

John P. Harris.