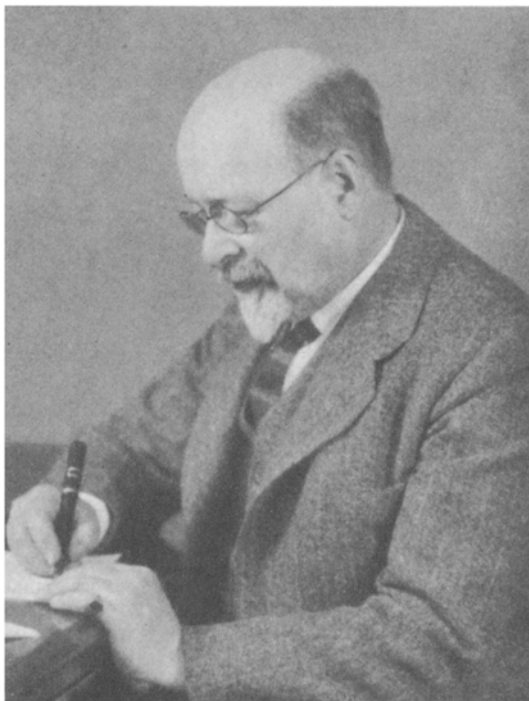


## BIOGRAPHIES

### David Wesson

**D**AVID WESSON, the man who helped to found the American Oil Chemists' Society, who was its second president and who is Associate Editor of the Society's journal, *OIL AND SOAP*, needs no introduction to his co-workers. His achievements make him need no introduction to anyone. He has taken such a prominent part in the technical and professional advancement of our time that he is an integral part of it. His per-



*David Wesson*

sonality and individuality make it impossible for any of his contemporaries to take his place in professional circles.

Doctor Wesson is truly American and his ancestry, education and professional career. He was born in Brooklyn and received his preliminary education at the public schools and the Polytechnic Institute at Brooklyn. He is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in bachelor of science and chemistry (1883). Upon graduation he became assistant to William Ripley Nichols, professor of chemistry and chemical philosophy in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The work he did here on water and air for the Massachusetts State Board of Health and his work in preparing and setting up his lecture and laboratory experiment was his post-graduate course.

In 1884 he started his life-long specialty when he went to work for N. K. Fairbanks Company. In this connection he devoted his entire attention to soap, lard oils, cottonseed oil and other fats. The New York office of the W. J. Wilcox Lard and Refining Company absorbed the N. K. Fairbanks Company and Dr. Wesson was sent to its Gutenberg, N. J., plant as chief chemist in 1890. Here he obtained valuable plant experience.

Leaving the American Cotton Oil Co. in 1895 he started a bicycle factory in Courtland, N. Y. It was

here that he established a research laboratory and in 1900 he developed the process for making cottonseed oil edible. The development of Wesson oil enhanced the value of the cotton crop by many millions of dollars and constitutes one of the outstanding developments in chemistry.

The Wesson Process Company was organized to handle this new development. At this time Dr. Wesson also became manager of the technical department of the Southern Cotton Oil Company. The winter of 1900 an installation was started at the plant of the Southern Oil Company at Savannah, Ga. Wesson's chemical engineering training and experience were utilized to overcome the manufacturing difficulties that were encountered. It was 16 years between the time that Wesson began the study of fats and oils and the placing on the market of Wesson oil. The sale of Wesson oil has increased constantly ever since it was first introduced. Dr. Wesson continued as manager of the technical department of the Southern Cotton Oil Company up to 1920 when he became their Technical Advisor.

While David Wesson is known as an expert on the technology of fats and oils he has also kept pace with the development and improvement in the growing field of chemical engineering. In 1887 he organized and operated the first analytical laboratory for systematic analysis of cottonseed oil mill products. He was the first man to establish physical auditing methods for cotton oil operations. David Wesson is one of the most congenial of men. He has a keen sense of humor. The sport he enjoys most is sailing. He is quite a horticulturist and raises the finest variety of roses. He was married in 1896 and has five children and nine grandchildren.

Dr. Wesson has always been interested in chemical societies and is a charter member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and was its president in 1919-1920. He is now the auditor of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, which position he has held for the past ten years. He has served as president of the American Oil Chemists' Society, secretary of the Chicago Chemical Society, president of the New Jersey Chemical Society and chairman of the North Jersey section of the American Chemical Society and also as chairman of the American Chemical Society's Prize Essay Contest.

In addition to acting as Associate Editor for the American Oil Chemists' Society's journal, *OIL AND SOAP*, Dr. Wesson's publications have included numerous papers in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Transactions of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry as well as various trade journals of the fat and oil industries. As a speaker he is animated and forceful—always interesting. He has made numerous addresses before chemical societies and trade associations and has made a very material contribution to publicity which has assisted in educating the public concerning the economic value of chemistry.

One hundred and five employees of The Armand Company, Inc., of Des Moines, Ia., manufacturers of cosmetics, have been covered with life insurance through the adoption of a group policy by that organization, through the Prudential Insurance Company of America. The policy involves a total of \$216,500.

The workers are eligible to coverage in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, according to the rank and sex of the employe, and the premiums will be shared by the employes and the Armand Company, the policy being of the contributory type.

### Italy—Italian Export Institute to Check Purity of Olive Oil

The directing council of the Italian National Fascist Federation for the Wine and Olive Oil Trade voted last week that the Italian National Export Institute begin a check on the purity of domestic oils intended for export. At the start, however, the experiment will be limited solely to those oils intended for sale in the United States.

Furthermore, the Institute is asked to exact a fixed tax, such as Spanish oil exporters are already subject to, on every quintal of oil exported, the tax to be used for advertising purposes in the United States and to combat unfavorable statements made there by foreign competitors.

The above is from "Il Sole" of December 23, 1932, and was forwarded the Bureau by Assistant Trade Commissioner Kennedy at Rome, Italy.

John P. Harris of Chicago spoke before the Arkansas Water Works Conference at Little Rock, Ark., February 23rd. This conference is held annually under the auspices of the State Board of Health and the University of Arkansas Civil and Chemical Engineering Departments.

### Continuous Research Pays

**A**NNOUNCEMENT of the National Oil Products Company, of Harrison, New Jersey, that it has increased its net income 15 per cent during 1932, calls attention to the fact that this company has increased both its volume of business and its net earnings uninterruptedly during the past three years, and has therefore placed itself in the "depression-proof" class of industries. Credit for this accomplishment is ascribed by C. P. Gulick, president of the company, to continuous scientific research which has made possible the diversification of the application of the company's products.

"We have had no pay-cuts or lay-offs during the past three years," said Mr. Gulick. "On the contrary, we have increased our forces by about 33 per cent during this period. Our sales volume has grown about this same percentage, and our dividends have risen from \$1 to \$4 annually.

"Scientific research in our own laboratories has been the key to this expansion," Mr. Gulick stated. "Much has been said in praise of commercial research, but many companies carrying on research drastically curtailed this work when the depression came on. We, however, have constantly extended our facilities.

"Starting originally with oil products for the tanning industry, we have through research developed special oils for the textile and other fields. Next we took advantage of some of the recent discoveries of nutritional science and developed a market for our vitamin-D-rich cod and cod-liver oils for poultry and general farm feeding purposes. More recently we were fortunate in securing a license under the Zucker-Columbia patents for extracting the vitamin D content of cod-liver oil in a highly concentrated form which is being used to fortify milk, bread and other foods with this universally needed nutritional factor. We have also been able to develop improvements in certain cosmetics."

The National Oil Products Company has been known for many years as the largest importers of cod and cod-liver oils in the United States and it still maintains this position. It is also the largest sulphonator of castor oil and olive oil for industrial uses.