as is well known, is of tremendous commercial importance; it is also a valuable tool in the research laboratory. It is easily accomplished by treatment with hydrogen at ordinary temperature in the presence of active platinum black (25). Unsaturated fatty acids, usually low melting compounds, are converted into higher melting crystalline compounds which may be crystallized and purified. The carbon chain of the reduced acid is identical with that of the unsaturated acid. Anderson (26) has used reduction along with the lead soap method to isolate and identify new saturated liquid acids with branched carbon chains. The unsaturated acids of certain fractions of tubercle bacilli lipids were reduced. The reduced acids were again subjected to the liquid lead soap separation; lead soaps of saturated acids remained in solution in ether, tuberculostearic and phthioic acids. Detailed investigation of other lipids will disclose, no doubt, the presence of similar acids.

In concluding this brief review I would criticize workers in this field as having been too much satisfied with gross generalizations as to the composition of fatty acid mixtures; they have depended too much on the dogma that all naturally occurring fatty acids have an even carbon chain and a straight carbon chain and that most fats and oils contain relatively few fatty acids. Careful investigation of even the most common of these fats and oils will disclose, I believe, fatty acids, hitherto unsuspected of being present. At the same time I would compliment these workers who with few specific tests and fewer specific methods of separation but with tedious detailed and comprehensive application of these methods have given us the great amount of information about fats and oils we now possess.

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REPORT OF THE UNIFORM METHODS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AMERICAN OIL CHEMISTS' SOCIETY FALL MEETING, 1936

THE Soap Committee in their report have made certain recommendations which were submitted by mail to the members of the Uniform Methods and Planning Committee.

They suggested a slight modification in the method for Free Alkali Determination, this method to be modified to read as follows:

"Heat the filtrate from the above nearly to boiling, add 0.5 cc. of a 1 per cent solution of phenolphthalein, and titrate with standard acid or alkali solution, and calculate the alkalinity to sodium hydroxide (or potassium hydroxide) or acidity to oleic acid."

The Uniform Methods and Planning Committee have approved this modification. A motion for its adoption was made and seconded and passed by the Society.

In the method for determining Moisture in Paste Soaps Containing Glycerine, a section "c" was added. The entire method will then read as follows:

"*MOISTURE.* The oven method given below is generally applicable to all soaps. Experience has shown, however, that certain exceptions to this method must be made if accurate results are desired. These exceptions include:

a. For soaps containing appreciable amounts of sodium silicate the distillation method is preferred.

b. Soaps of linseed and other oxidizing oils absorb oxygen and if the oven method is used may gain in weight near the end of the test. Therefore, either an inert atmosphere or vacuum oven should be used. The distillation method is also applicable to these types of soaps.

c. Soaps containing appreciable amounts of glycerine, such as cold made and semi-boiled (including paste soaps), usually give high results by the oven method. The distillation method is preferred for most accurate results on these types of soaps."

The Uniform Methods and Planning Committee approve this addition to the method as printed. The motion for its adoption was made and seconded and passed by the Society.

The Soap Committee points out that there was an omission in the first printing of the Modified Wolff Method for Rosin. They suggest that it read as follows under "Second Esterification":

"Cool and dissolve the residue in 20 cc. of absolute ethyl alcohol and then proceed as above under 'First Esterification.' Add 30 cc. neutral alcohol (94 per cent or higher) and titrate rosin or rosin soap as desired, using phenolphthalein as indicator."

The Uniform Methods and Planning Committee approve this addition to the method as printed. A motion for its adoption was made and seconded and passed by the Society.

The reports of the Color Committee and the Committee on Sulphonated Oils were not received in time to submit to the Uniform Methods and Planning Committee and will have to be held over for approval at the Spring meeting.

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H. P. Trevithick
M. L. Sheely
P. E. Ronzone
J. J. Vollertsen, Chairman.