Report of The Fat Analysis Committee*

SINCE the report of the Fat Analysis Committee last fall, at which time a rather extensive report and recommendations for the adoption of a number of methods were made, the committee has had no opportunity to do further work. They have, however, discussed and outlined future work.

It was agreed to undertake some further work on the Jamieson modification for the separation of liquid and solid acids. Attention has been called to a statement that the present method and the calculation yield lower iso-oleic acid results as indicated by a report of Cocks, Christian and Harding, given in *The Analyst*, Volume LVI, pages 368 to 380 inclusive.

It is also planned, in view of the inclusion of many new vegetable oils in edible product, to check up and include in our book methods covering specific tests such as the Villavechia test for Sesame Oil, the Besson for Kapok, Ghose-Pal for Fish Oil, etc., etc. There are other oils which should receive consideration, such as soyabean, rape, sunflower, babassu, etc. The question of the proper method of arriving at the saponifiable matter in commercial fats and oils has been discussed from time to time. The opinion, to date, seems to indicate that the most accurate method is to subtract moisture, insoluble impurities, soluble impurities, and unsaponifiable matter from 100. It is also, of course, necessary to determine the combined fatty acids in order to determine the value of product for the soap-maker or candle-maker.

The committee tried out the method suggested by Dr. Wesson a number of years ago, but the results were quite variable and, therefore, the decision was in favor of the method outlined above.

The committee hopes to continue the cooperative work this summer and have a report ready for the Fall Meeting of the society.

Since writing the above report, the chairman has been notified that our report to the American Chemical Society, which in substance amounted to the same report as given at the 1935 Fall Meeting, has been officially adopted by the Supervisory Committee and by the Council of the American Chemical Society.

R. W. BAILEY,
T. C. LAW,
C. P. LONG,
H. J. MORRISON,
M. L. SHEELY,
L. M. TOLMAN,
H. P. TREVITHICK,
J. J. VOLLERTSEN,
W. H. IRWIN, Chairman.

Report of The Referee Board

THIRTY-TWO referee certificates were issued for the past year. The names of the Referee Chemists have been published in OIL & SOAP.

Ten cottonseed samples and five crude cottonseed oil samples were distributed to the Referee Chemists and to a few voluntary collaborators, for analysis and test according to our official methods. The National Cottonseed Products Association turned over to our society the balance in the association's fund for collaborative analytical work, nearly all of this balance being credited to the accounts of the individual laboratories from which the fund was originally collected.

The retiring Referee Board has no recommendations to make to the society or to the incoming board. It is assumed that, in absence of any instructions to the contrary, the new board will continue to carry out the policies adopted by the society during the year 1934-5.

N. C. HAMNER,
J. P. HARRIS,
A. A. ROBINSON,
J. J. VOLLERTSEN,
A. S. RICHARDSON, Chairman.

New Type Of Material For Publication

The Journal has received a letter from Dr. Egbert Freyer suggesting that a new column be published in our Journal under the heading of "Laboratory Helps" or some similar title. Excerpts from Dr. Freyer's letter follow:

"It seems to me that our Journal might be made more interesting and of added usefulness to its subscribers by the publication in it of laboratory aids, such as are evolved in a laboratory for the convenience of that particular laboratory, but which undoubtedly would be welcome in other laboratories engaged in similar work.

"There is no doubt that we have a lot of little problems in our laboratories which we are able to solve sometimes with flashes of inspiration, and it seems a pity that only our inertia against writing them up should prevent sharing with our brethren the benefits of these little gems of petty problem-solution.

"I base the soundess of these thoughts on the circumstance that whenever I visit another oil laboratory I always find some useful ideas that I am glad to take away with me, and whenever I show any visiting oil chemist through my laboratory, he usually comments on some little device that we have evolved for doing a particular job just a little more easily, or just a little more cheaply, or in just a bit shorter time. Any such devices or methods of handling that save money are worth while, and if they are worth while in one oil laboratory, they ought to be so in others; and for the sake of the conservation of chemists' time and energies, their application ought not to be restricted."

The above idea has been discussed favorably at a meeting of the Governing Board during our recent Convention at New Orleans. It is our belief that this material will constitute a valuable addition to the scope of the Journal. We solicit the cooperation of every reader in launching and maintaining this column. May we suggest that you look around your laboratory with the above ideas in mind and send us a write-up of anything you may find as soon as possible?