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Meet Your Past President . . .

HARRY P. TREVITHICK, 1927

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is another in the series of sketches on past presidents which Oil & Soap inaugurated a year ago with the March 1946, issue to acquaint new members with past leaders. Previous presidents were Felix Paquin, pro tem in 1909, elected in 1910; David Wesson, E. R. Barrow, F. N. Smalley, G. W. Agee, G. G. Fox, T. C. Law, Archibald Campbell, P. S. Tilson, Rex W. Perry, F. B. Porter, C. B. Cluff, L. M. Tolman, H. B. Battle, H. J. Morrison, J. J. Vollertsen, and R. H. Fash.*)

THE late 20's were a time of growth and change in the American Oil Chemists' Society as will be seen from the annual reports of various presidents. Beginning with the term of Harry Phillips Trevithick, who became the 18th president in 1927, the Society held its first fall meeting in the North, in October in New York City with an attendance of 30 to 40 members. New committees were established for olive oil, linseed oil, and sampling. The Planning committee, which was later merged with the Uniform Methods committee, was revamped so that each man represented a particular segment in industry. Work was also carried on in respect to color and the calibration of Lovibond glasses in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Standards and under the direction of Irwin G. Priest. Miss Geraldine Walker was hired as research associate of the Society to help in this project.

H. P. TREVITHICK

The granting of full referee certificates was authorized at the 19th annual meeting in 1928, for the first time, and the holders of earlier certificates were given limited referee certificates. Plans for a moisture oven (glycerine oven) were adopted; revisions of the Methods were prepared for printing an edition of 300; and joint research with the Interstate Cottonseed Crushers' Association was approved.

As might be expected from such a record of achievement, Mr. Trevithick was active in the Society, being especially interested in the chemistry and technology of the fatty oils, glycerine, and soaps. He had written numerous technical and scientific papers on these subjects. In November, 1915, he had joined the staff of the Produce Exchange Laboratory in New York City, becoming chief chemist and consultant in August, 1917. Under his management the Exchange Laboratories had increased in size and prestige throughout the world, specializing in grains, flour, bread, edible fats and oils, and soaps. And it was the Produce Exchange which housed the Society's first New York meeting.

At the time of his death on January 17, 1945, Mr. Trevithick was a member of the American Chemical Society, Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, and American Society for Testing Materials. He was

a graduate of Wesleyan university in 1907 and of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1910. For the next three years he was district chemist of the Southern Cotton Oil Company and Refuge Cotton Oil Company at Vicksburg, Miss. He spent a short time with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington before going to the N. Y. Produce Exchange.

A. W. PUTLAND, 1928

IN 1928, A. W. Putland, of the Portsmouth (Va.) Cotton Oil Refining Corporation, became president of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and one of his first acts was to appoint two new committees: one to determine the oil in cotton seed and the other to investigate the Kreis test as an index to the degree of rancidity. In the fall the Society again met in New York City at the Produce Exchange, on October 25-26, for a program in which soap papers predominated. A joint committee with the American Chemical Society was set up on the analysis of commercial fats and oils with W. D. Richardson as chairman.

At this meeting the Soap section of the Society was organized and A. K. Church of Lever Brothers, Cambridge, Mass., named chairman. Its program was intended to improve some of the analytical methods pertaining to soap, "an instance of which," according to a report in the November, 1928, issue of Oil and Fat Industries, "is the determination of the titer of fatty acids through the use of a thermocouple;" to prepare a standard soap sample for the purpose of checking analytical results as between different laboratories; to prepare a standard glycerine sample for the same purpose; and to certify commercial laboratories as referees on soap and glycerin analysis.

Papers of the Soap section were to be published in Soap since MacNair-Dorland Company was to undertake publication of Oil and Fat Industries for the Society beginning with the December, 1928, issue.

In May of 1929 the Society became 20 years of age, and an editorial in the current issue comments as follows: "When, 20 years ago, a little group of chemists associated with the cottonseed oil industry met to found the Society, the science of chemistry, as applied to the oils and fats, was little known and less practiced in this country. There were a few chemists working on the problems of refining oils for edible purposes, and some of the very largest of American soapmakers had laboratory control of a sort for their factories. The constitution and structure of fats was little understood, however, and the composition of the various individual natural oils was clouded by many conjectures. Methods of analysis were those preferred by each chemist using them, and agreement of results between laboratories was a matter of fortuitous chance rather than of certainty. Methods in factory work were less certain even than those of the laboratory. Manufacturers thought they possessed secrets from their competitors and taught their chemists and other employees to be chary of discussion."

After recounting accomplishments, the editorial concludes that "the advances in the technology of oils and fats in this country during the past 20 years have been great indeed and in practically every case have been developed by members of the Society. This Society deserves the support of every chemist and every manufacturer who is interested in the chemistry and technology of oils and fats."

Announcement was made in May, 1929, of the publication of the Standard Methods of Analysis in loose-

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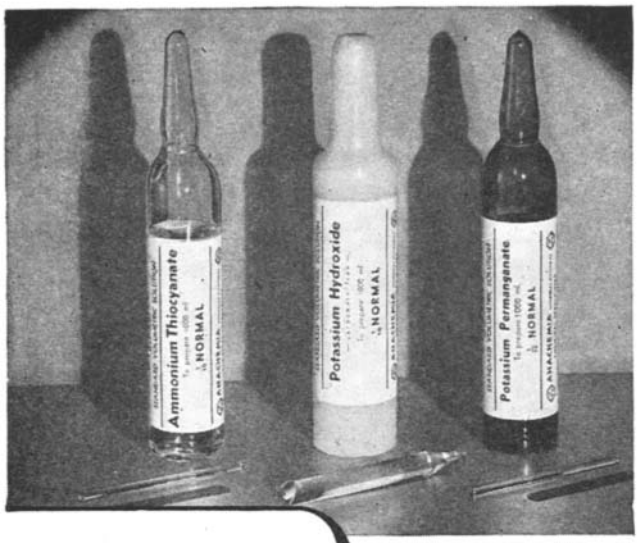

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leaf form with a Lefax binder. An edition of 2,500 copies was printed at a cost of $85, with W. H. Irwin as chairman.

Mr. Putland, who is no longer a member of the Society, is now living in Havre de Grace, Md. After leaving Portsmouth, he was employed as a chemist in research development work by Armour and Company, Chicago, for about six years. Then he was transferred to Chattanooga, where he became superintendent of a vegetable oil refinery of the Lookout Cotton Refining Company, a subsidiary of Armour. When he left this position, he went to Refining inc. for several years and is now with the Wm. Schluderberg and T. J. Kurdle Company.

W. R. STRYKER, 1929

THE next president, Whitelaw Reid Stryker of the Southern Cotton Oil Company, New Orleans, La., who was elected in May, 1929, continued the new tradition of the fall meeting in New York City, and it was held on November 14 and 15 at the Hotel McAlpin under the auspices of the Soap section. And the next spring in New Orleans the Society adopted new rules for the grading of cottonseed for purchase by the oil millers.

W. R. STRYKER

Mr. Stryker has continued also a long interest in the technical work of the Society, serving on the Referee Board from 1929 to 1934 and on other committees as follows: Detergents, 1931-2; Gov. Bd. 1926-34; Memb. 1928-29; Rfg. 1927-28. He was first vice president in 1928-29.

Other affiliations are with the American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and American Institute of Science. He has been a chemist for several firms, beginning with the Sidney Blumenthal and Company, Shelton, Conn., 1904-06; Oswiego, N. Y., 1906-08; American Cotton Oil Company and subsidiaries, 1908-16 at Chicago, St. Louis, and Gretna, La.; and the Southern Cotton Oil Company ever since, including the Southport Mill. He was graduated from Rutgers college in 1904 and married in 1909 to Miss Florence Cable Dean. His birthplace was Griggstown, N. J.

ROBERT N. DUPUIS, formerly with Miner Laboratories, Chicago, has joined the staff of S. C. Johnson and Son inc., Racine, Wis., as assistant research and development director, according to J. Vernon Steinle, director.

DEAN C. INGRAHAM has left Berkeley, Calif., for India, where he will be associated with Swaika Oil Mills, Pollock House, Calcutta.

C. L. Bird, F.R.I.C., has been appointed editor of the Journal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists, succeeding the late Prof. F. M. Rowe, Leeds university, England. Mr. Bird, who has been assistant editor, is lecturer in dyeing at Leeds university and author of "The Theory and Practice of Wool Dyeing."

Samuel Cottrell has been named vice president in charge of technical operations by the AMERICAN POTASH AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION.

Brig. Gen. James Creel Marshall joined the staff of the M. W. KELLOGG COMPANY, Jersey City, N. J., on March 3, 1947. Foremost among his more recent army activities was his service on the atom bomb project, beginning in June, 1942.

MILTON HARRIS ASSOCIATES announce a change in name to Harris Research Laboratories and the formation of Harris Instruments inc.

The Crooker-Henderson Odor Standards for specifying the odor of any material or product in terms of a 4-digit number are announced by CARGILLE SCIENTIFIC INC., 118 Liberty street, New York City.

Volume 1, No. 1, of the new quarterly publication of the INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS has been issued under the name of Food Technology with C. Olin Ball, director of chemical research for Owens-Illinois Glass Company, Toledo, O., as editor, according to an announcement by E. H. Harvey, president. Among the associate editors are several A.O.C.S. members: M. L. Laing, Armour and Company, Chicago; B. L. Oser, Food Research Laboratories, Long Island City, N. Y.; and H. A. Schuette, University of Wisconsin. The aim of the publication will be to integrate chemistry, bacteriology, and engineering in food processing.

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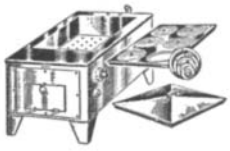

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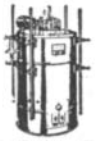

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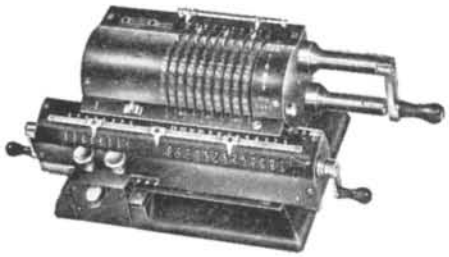

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