NEW WETTING AGENTS. Soc. pour l'ind. chim. a Bale. *Swiss 230,843.* A new condensation product is obtained by treating stearic acid hydrazide with fructose in glacial AcOH or alcoholic solution at 60-80°. The new product is a yellowish powder, soluble in warm water to a slightly cloudy solution, which decomposes on boiling with mineral acids. It is useful as a wetting agent for textiles. (*Chem. Abs. 43*, 2452.)

DETERGENT. "Novag" Akt.-Ges. *Swiss 228,769.* Soap substitutes, such as fatty alcohol sulfonates are said to withdraw fat from the skin in use and are claimed to disintegrate easily from their original cake form. Two examples characterize the composition of the detergents covered in this patent. (I) Paraffin, 15 g. is melted and mixed with Na dodecyl sulfonate 10, kaolin (colloidal) 15, bentonite 10, starch 25, a 10% gum tragacanth solution 20, milk casein 7 g., and some perfume, then extruded and pressed in cake form. (II) In similar manner, paraffin 6, carnauba wax 4, and beeswax 2 g. are melted and mixed with triethanolamine 1, sulfonated albumin-fatty acid condensate 10, sodium stearylsulfonate 7, bentonite 22, starch 28, 10% solution of methylcellulose 15, and soluble casein 5 g. Such products cannot be differentiated from toilet soap, have beneficial effects upon the skin and have good and economic keeping properties. (*Chem. Abs. 43*, 2452.)

SYNTHETIC SOAP. "Chimiotechnic" Union chimique du Norde et du Rhone, Soc. anon. *Fr. 868,793.* A detergent, such as the Na salt of the sulfate of lauric amide, is mixed with clay and (or) kaolin with or without glycerol and Na_2CO_3, Na_2SO_4, or Na_2SiO_3. (*Chem. Abs. 43*, 2004.)

Letter to the Editor.

On the Use of Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose as a Detergent, Especially as Combined with Fatty Acid Soap

DEAR SIR:

My letter to you, dated August 1948, which was published under the above title on pages 51 and 52 of the February 1949 issue of your Journal, may have given an undesirable and unfavorable impression of the usefulness of synthetic detergents in laundry practice in general and of one synthetic detergent in particular. I wanted to point out that, under the circumstances then prevailing in the Netherlands, the available synthetics could not compete on a price basis with fatty acid soap or with combinations of fatty acid soap and Na-CMC.

Since August 1948 several changes have occurred. At Arnhem a third factory producing Na-CMC has come into production. The prices quoted in the original letter no longer hold so that from this point of view the situation has become more favorable for the synthetics. Further research has shown that in washing white work with synthetics the deposition of inorganic calcium salts noted previously can be kept within reasonable limits if the composition of the washing liquor is suitably chosen. Later experiments have also shown that for the same performance one part of soap can be replaced by ⅓ to ⅔ parts of synthetic detergent on an active matter basis, dependent on the washing conditions chosen and on the presence of Na-CMC.

A full report on laundry trials with mixtures of a synthetic detergent, fatty acid soap, and Na-CMC will be published later.

K. J. NIEUWENHUIS
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April 1, 1949