

Presidential Address

WE are meeting once more in these familiar surroundings. The traditional hospitality of New Orleans and our local friends, coupled with their experience in planning these meetings, speaks for a pleasant and enlightening sojourn.

For the third time in the history of our Society we meet under the cloud of a national emergency. There is no doubt that our membership, individually and collectively, will meet the demands of this situation. Some of our members will enter military service. By action of the Board, they will be carried on the Society's rolls in their classification, without payment of dues, during their time of service. With this goes our appreciation and our good wishes.



J. R. Mays Jr.

After an exchange of correspondence with M. H. Trytten, director, Office of Scientific Personnel, and A. H. Emery, executive secretary, American Chemical Society, all of the active members of the American Oil Chemists' Society were listed in the National Scientific Register. This was done by Dr. Emery's office. It is with a sense of satisfaction that we found that the AOCS qualifications for active membership were such that the entire list

was used. The cooperation of ACS is appreciated.

The Secretary of Commerce has instituted a program for the voluntary protection of technical information. This is what the name implies, and we deem it of such importance that we are recommending that the Society, through its Journal, give this service the publicity that it deserves.

We have accepted the invitation of Dr. N. H. Furman to have an official representative present at the Diamond Jubilee meeting of the American Chemical Society in New York, September next. Dr. Foster D. Snell will extend our official greetings.

IN this report to the membership it is not possible to point to an outstanding achievement of this administration, nor is it necessary to offer an alibi for lack of achievement of purposes. The affairs of the Society are in good shape. This is not owing to the work of an individual but rather to the splendid and loyal cooperation of a number of members, all working to further the best interests of the AOCS and to demonstrate literally the soundness of the purposes as expressed in its constitution.

These achievements can best be described in the reports which you have heard, or will hear, from your secretary, treasurer, vice president, and executive secretary. The Journal Committee will report on the condition and affairs of our most excellent publication. From the Education Committee you will have an enthusiastic report on the short courses. If any of these reports is modestly presented, it should not lessen our appreciation of the fine work of these individuals and their accomplishments.

We are justly proud of our Journal. If you haven't read Editor Baldwin's commentary in the January '51 issue, you should do so. We cannot overemphasize the importance of the Journal to the Society. Not only is this the main source of direct revenue, but it is the means of interesting many prospective members, and non-member subscribers, in this country as well as abroad.

The Education Committee has successfully conducted three short courses. The last of these was held last summer at the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the Federation of Paint and Varnish Production Clubs. The committee recommended that no short course be held in 1951 and has submitted a report on future policy which is receiving the careful attention of the Governing Board.

Upon the urgent insistence of Dr. A. S. Richardson, the Governing Board reluctantly accepted his resignation as chairman of the Referee Board as of January 1, 1951. Fortunately he remains as a member of the Board. This culminated 18½ years of service as a fair and impartial chairman in a job that at times required the utmost in tact and patience. His successor has had the benefit of a six-months' training period, as it were, under Dr. Richardson.

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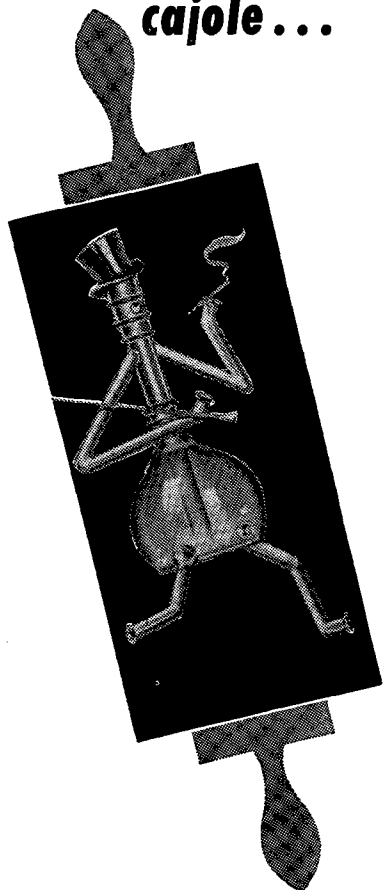
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The work of the Smalley Foundation Committee has greatly expanded in recent years. It now has five subcommittees concerned with the distribution of check samples. The results of these collaborative series are used by the Referee Board so it is logical that we have one man, R. W. Bates, acting as chairman of the Smalley Foundation work as well as of the Referee Board.

THE founders of the Society were wise in their plan for a Uniform Methods Committee. This is one committee that has functioned from the beginning. Its careful screening of new methods or changes in methods, as well as its authority to direct study of methods, is an essential service and a safeguard. By recommendation of this committee and direction of the Governing Board, an editor of the AOCS methods was chosen from the Uniform Methods Committee. T. H. Hopper accepted this responsibility.

You will hear reports from some of the technical committees through their chairmen. The absence of a report does not mean inactivity. As a matter of fact, one such instance in which we have been kept closely advised is that of the Bleaching Methods Committee. They are busily engaged in preliminary work that will eventually lead to an interesting and conclusive report.

The president is charged with performing the duties regularly or customarily pertaining to his office. He appoints the Uniform Methods Committee and the chairmen of all technical committees. The personnel of these committees must have his approval. We have followed the custom of previous years in reappointing the same chairmen, except in those instances where they asked to be relieved. One committee was reduced in size and one or two others were reorganized, but, in the main, the personnel remained the same. This has the value of giving the benefit of experience to these committees by retaining men that are old in service, but it deprives newer or younger members of the opportunity of taking part in this activity. While pleading guilty to a continuation of an established practice, we still do not feel that it is entirely equitable and fair.

THE policies of the Society and the direction of its affairs are in the hands of the Governing Board. No president could be very effective without a strong Board, and we count ourselves fortunate in the response and cooperation and advice of this year's Board.

The Board had its first meeting in Atlanta in May, its second in San Francisco in September, and its third on yesterday, April 30. Each meeting lasts three or four hours. In addition to this, there have been 23 proposals submitted in 14 communications to the Board for mail ballot or comment.

Two important matters were carried over from the previous year. The first of these had to do with the report of a special finance committee. This committee had already recommended an increase in dues, and this recommendation had been approved by the Society. Each of their other recommendations was carefully studied, and appropriate action was taken. A special survey committee was appointed and has since reported that the Society's best interest could be served by a continuation of the lease on the present offices.

The second of these concerned the report of the special committee on awards. This resulted in action at the fall meeting of the Board and a decision to submit to the membership proposed changes in the constitution and by-laws setting up a new class of membership, viz., emeritus. The results of this ballot will be reported at this meeting.

The increased size of the AOCS book of Methods has brought about a discussion as to whether we should continue with the present looseleaf form or should change to a bound volume. It was decided to obtain an opinion from each technical committee chairman and then refer the matter to the Board. This subject was ably handled by the special committee. A brief was prepared, setting forth the advantages and disadvantages in both proposals. The final result was a decision to carry on with the present looseleaf publication for a least a few years.

IT is fitting that we should pause in our deliberations in order that we might pay our respects to the memory of members who have been taken from us, by death, since our last meeting. Will you please stand while I read the name of

Charles J. Gundel, a member since 1941, who died on September 4, 1950

In addition, there were two men who were not members of the Society at the time of their death but had been prominent at one time:

H. J. Morrison, president in 1924, died October 7, 1950
 E. F. Scherubel, a charter member, died January 25, 1951

FOR the past few years there has been a trend in the selection of locations for the two yearly meetings of the Society. This has resulted in having meetings in New Orleans and Chicago one year and in other cities on alternate years. Last year we met in Atlanta and San Francisco, returning to New Orleans and Chicago this year. Believing that this policy is sound, the Board selected Houston and Cincinnati as the locations for the 1951 meetings. The success of the 1950 meetings at Atlanta and San Francisco justifies this decision.

Under a change in the Social Security Act, amendments of 1950, a non-profit organization was given the privilege of waiving its exemptions if it and two-thirds of its employees elected to have social security coverage. The employees of the national headquarters office unanimously asked for this coverage, and it was agreed to by the Governing Board. This coverage is now in effect.

There are many routine matters that have occupied the attention of the Board. It is not necessary to enumerate these. Suffice it to say that they involved the general welfare of the Society and that for this reason they were, without exception, given careful attention.

One of the organizers of this Society, and its first president, was Felix Paquin. For 42 years he has remained a faithful member. During those years the Society has held a place in his heart. Last year each of the living past presidents of the Society was presented with a gold key. These were paid for by him. At the same time he expressed a desire to provide the Society with a sum of money, which, when invested in government bonds, would yield annually a sum sufficient to buy for each future retiring president one of these gold keys. The Board with gratefulness, and some humility, accepted this money and has set it up in the records as the Felix Paquin Foundation.

For 14 years Harry L. Roschen has served the Society, first as editor of its Journal (1937-1948) and then as its secretary (1945-1951). In spite of the fact that his duties have changed in recent years and he is no longer working in oils and fats, he has continued his interest as long as possible.

WE are operating under a comparatively new Constitution.

This charter represents the fine thinking of a loyal and hard-working group, and it was, of course, approved by the membership. As is the case with all such documents however there may be the necessity of desirability of amendment. This requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members with voting power. There may be, conceivably, proposals which are of primary concern only to members in this country. Our foreign members, while having all the rights of active membership, may feel that such matters are of little or no concern to them. Failure to receive their ballots will add to the problem of getting the required number of votes from the United States. We would like to impress upon each active member the importance of exercising his privilege of voting on such matters.

We know that an effort was made by the by-laws committee to provide a perfectly democratic method of nominating candidates for the various offices and Board positions. That it results in a strong slate must have been evident to you, who have had the difficulty of choosing from a list of excellent candidates. Yet an analysis of the nominating ballots gives one the feeling that many members have lacked the knowledge of the requirements for the various candidates or have been completely indifferent on this important matter. This problem has been given careful thought. It would be desirable to have some system of bringing to the attention of the membership a list of men who are qualified by experience and Society service to fill the various positions. Such a system, while possessing many advantages, also presents some definite drawbacks. No solution is yet in sight though the need remains.

It has been my desire to give a brief review of the activities of the Board during this past year and also to acknowledge on my part the teamwork that has been so helpful to me. My faith in the American Oil Chemists' Society is greater than ever. For the honor and opportunity of serving you, I again say thank you.

J. R. MAVS, JR.

Canadian Meeting

The 34th annual conference of the Chemical Institute of Canada will be held in Winnipeg, June 18 to 20, 1951. In addition to 76 technical papers, there will be a presentation of the Chemical Institute of Canada medal for meritorious service to the profession.

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