



Vitamin A with a twist

Our valued employee is separating, crystal by crystal, a mixture of orange-colored prisms of 2,4-di-cis-vitamin A aldehyde and yellow needles of 2-mono-cis-vitamin A aldehyde. It's the final step in purifying a mixture formed when vitamin A aldehyde was exposed for four hours to midsummer sunshine through certain light filters.

This particular employee is not a production worker, obviously. He is a research chemist. (By this we do not mean quality control man, trouble shooter, or customer service man. We have all three, but we'll talk about them some other time.)

The purpose of his activity goes back to the work of a famous biologist who found a substance which he named "neoretinene b." It reacts in a complex way with some complex substances in the retina of the eye to convert light energy into optic nerve signals. We then showed "neoretinene b" to be 2,4-di-cis-vitamin A aldehyde. This means vitamin A with twists at two specified points in the molecule. Our man here is preparing for further study a quantity of this specially twisted vitamin A, which the body ordinarily manufactures for seeing purposes out of regular vitamin A.

What's the connection with the margarine manufacturer to whom we supply his batch-premeasured cans of untwisted Myvax® Vitamin A under our "Myvapack" trade-mark? We figure that when a new twist in vitamin A is brought to light, it's up to us to look into it firsthand and very thoroughly. That's a responsibility of leadership. Moreover, our Myvax Vitamin A costs no more, tastes good, and is promptly available from stock. *Distillation Products Industries*, Rochester 3, N. Y. Sales offices: New York, Chicago, and Memphis • W. M. Gillies and Company, Los Angeles, Portland, and San Francisco • Charles Albert Smith Limited, Montreal and Toronto.

leaders in
research and production
of vitamin A



Distillation Products Industries
is a division of **Eastman Kodak Company**

servative policies which have served as the cornerstone of the Society ever since. As retiring president, I am happy to have this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to those who have preceded me in the conduct of Society affairs. We, the comparative newcomers, have literally stood on the shoulders of those who have gone before and what has recently been accomplished has been made possible only by the efforts of those who have preceded us.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers of the Society and the Governing Board for their unflagging efforts and enthusiasm in pursuing the best interests of the Society. I wish also to thank Mrs. Hawkins and the members of the A.O.C.S. office staff for their efficient handling of Society business. To the countless chairmen and members of the technical and administrative committees too numerous to single out individually I express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Lastly, I wish to thank the members of the Society for their continuing interest, without which our Society could not prosper and grow. To my successor, W. A. Peterson, and to President-elect Turner Hopper I express felicitations and best wishes. The affairs of the Society are in competent hands, and I am confident that we are embarking on an era of even greater progress and advancement. C. E. MORRIS.

People and Products

Distilled acetylated monoglycerides are being offered in semi-commercial quantities by **DISTILLATION PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES**, division of Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y., both as a white solid at room temperature and as a clear, practically colorless liquid. ❖

FISHER SCIENTIFIC COMPANY, Pittsburgh, Pa., offers a new laboratory oven which takes about 40 min. to reach a 105°C. drying temperature that it will hold indefinitely. ❖

Itaconic acid is the first of a new series of industrial chemicals made by fermentation to be offered this year by **CHARLES PFIZER AND COMPANY INC.**, Brooklyn, N. Y. ❖

KASSON S. GIBSON has retired from his position as chief of the photometry and colorimetry section, division of optics and metrology, of the National Bureau of Standards. Louis E. Barbrow has been named to succeed him. ❖

Granville M. Read, chief engineer of **E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY INC.**, Wilmington, Del., has been awarded a medal by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers for distinguished service in engineering and science. ❖

AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY has installed facilities to produce new chemicals for trial use in relatively large quantities at the company's plants in Bound Brook, N. J., and Warners, N. J. ❖

The European Convention for Chemical Engineering and Achema XI, chemical apparatus and equipment congress and exhibition, are being held jointly at Frankfurt am Main, Germany, May 14-22, 1955. ❖

MARION MACLEAN DAVIS, of the National Bureau of Standards, has received the Silver Medal for meritorious service from the Department of Commerce in recognition of her research contributions on acid-base reactions in non-aqueous organic solvents. ❖

Other Associations

The former **TALL OIL ASSOCIATION** became the Tall Oil Division of Pulp Chemicals Association at an annual meeting in March, 1955. A Sulphate Turpentine Division and a (Tall Oil) Fatty Acids Division of the new parent association were also formed. Headquarters will remain at 122 East 42nd street, New York, N. Y. ❖

Norman Wright, of Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich., is chairman of the new **COBLENTZ SOCIETY**, which was formed to foster the understanding and application of infrared spectra.