

Presidential Address

ONCE EACH YEAR it is the privilege of the president to report to the members regarding the events which have occurred during his term of office. In a society such as ours adjustments must constantly be made to suit changing conditions. Policies must be continually reviewed to meet current needs. New business, expanding services, an ever-widening sphere of activities all provide the theme and the subject-matter of my report to the membership.



C. E. Morris

The progress which our Society has made reflects the intense interest, hard work, and enthusiasm of a large segment of its membership. It was not until recent years that, as a result of closer association with the internal affairs of the A.O.C.S., I became fully aware of the tremendous amount of work which is done entirely without recompense by our committee members. This unselfish effort is what has made our Society almost unique among comparable organizations. If we would have to pay for this work, at even a nominal scale of compensation, the cost to the Society, its members, and our industry would be prohibitive. It is only by the continued devotion to the cause of scientific progress by numerous committee members that this work is made possible. A word must be said also for those companies who have given so generously of their laboratory facilities and employees' time and thus have, in effect, financed much of the technical committee work. The officers of the Society, and particularly I, as departing president, salute both the members and their employers who have done so much to make the technical progress of the Society a reality.

The financial status of the Society is sound and has continued to improve during the past year. As of December 31, 1954, the members' equity in the combined Society and Journal accounts amounted to approximately \$56,000, an increase of more than \$4,100 over the previous year. The details of the financial transactions will be made available in the treasurer's report, but a few salient points are worthy of note. In spite of constantly increasing operating costs your officers have steadfastly held to the principle that membership dues be kept at a minimum. As a result, our dues are perhaps the lowest of any comparable scientific organization in the United States today, despite the constantly increasing number and variety of services offered to our members and our industry, to say nothing of spiraling costs. What makes this particularly noteworthy is the fact that the A.O.C.S. operates entirely independently without financial subsidy from any outside source whatsoever.

The greatest single source of revenue accruing to the Society is from Journal advertising, close to 50% of our total being derived from this one source. It behooves us therefore to do everything possible to expand this source of income. The sale of Journal advertising is handled directly by Harley Ward of Harley Ward and Associates, and we are grateful to him and his splendid organization for the fine progress made in this direction. Due to expanded circulation, increases have been effected in advertising rates which will reflect greater advertising revenue during the coming year.

Also worthy of particular note in this connection is the outstanding work done by the Advertising Committee under the able and tireless chairmanship of A. E. MacGee. Quietly and almost unnoticed by the great majority of us, this committee has labored unceasingly to promote the sale of Journal advertising. Working in close cooperation with Mr. Ward, this group has been a cogent factor in the expansion of our advertising revenue. I take this opportunity to salute Dr. MacGee and his committee and to extend to them the thanks of the entire Society.

PERHAPS the greatest single asset possessed by the Society is its Journal. Under the capable editorship of A. R. Baldwin the Journal of the A.O.C.S. has grown in scientific stature until it stands today as the most authoritative publication in its field. As the Journal has grown in influence and prestige, the demands of the editor's time have increased until the burden has become almost intolerable. To alleviate this situation six associate editors have been appointed to share the work-load. While this has been most efficacious as a temporary expedient, it is recognized that long-range planning is necessary to insure the continuing progress of our Journal. A committee under the chairmanship of A. F. Kapeeki is studying the problem and, in the course of time, will present a program designed to correct the existing inequities.

The Society has recently agreed to administer and accept responsibility for a Fatty Acid Award given by the Glycerine and Fatty Acid Division of the Association of American Soap and Glycerine Producers Inc. This award consists of a cash prize of \$500 to be given to the student who presents the best paper on the subject of Fatty Acid Chemistry. This award will be administered directly by a committee under the chairmanship of M. L. Sheely, who will shortly announce complete details concerning it. The Society expresses its appreciation to the Association of the American Soap and Glycerine Producers and to E. Scott Pattison, manager of the Glycerine and Fatty Acids Division, for this fine gesture.

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A. O. C. S. Commentary

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The Membership Committee, under the chairmanship of President-elect W. A. Peterson, has made notable progress during the past year. As of December 31, 1954, our membership total reached 2,259, an all-time high. This establishes a new record for subsequent chairmen to emulate, and Mr. Peterson is to be congratulated on the splendid progress made by his committee.

One of the important functions of the Society is the supervision of commercial laboratories specializing in the analysis of certain fat and oil products. The responsibility for this duty is vested in the Referee Board under the capable chairmanship of N. W. Ziels. The functions of this committee are constantly expanding, requiring a careful re-study of all of its phases. Because of the far-reaching implications behind its operations and decisions, the Board is loath to recommend hasty changes in its procedures although all parts of its operations are now under close scrutiny. It seems quite likely however that within the next year or two constructive modifications will be proposed which may well require amendments to the constitution and by-laws at a future date.

A COMMITTEE under the chairmanship of Fred Kummerow has studied the problem of greater student participation in Society affairs. This committee has concluded that certain students in both the graduate and undergraduate categories would be valuable membership material and has recommended that the necessary constitution and by-law changes be made to implement the establishment of this membership classification. A committee under the chairmanship of Dan Henry has studied the constitution and by-laws with a view to recommending changes designed to simplify procedures. These recommendations have taken the form of streamlining the constitution, leaving it as a general statement of aims while making the by-laws the code under which the Society operates. Other recommended changes involve modifications in Referee Board procedures and creation of a student class of membership, to both of which reference has previously been made. The Society membership will shortly be called upon to ratify or disapprove these proposed constitution and by-law changes. It is hoped that they will be adopted as they represent the result of careful study and constructive planning and are, in the opinion of the Governing Board, forward-looking steps.

The Smalley Committee has continued to expand its functions under the efficient chairmanship of R. W. Bates. The tremendous volume of work undertaken by this committee in supervising the check sample program afford further evidence of the cooperative effort which has become the hallmark of our committee endeavors. To Mr. Bates and his committee go the thanks of the entire Society for the excellent manner in which this most important function has been discharged.

After five years of capably discharging the duties of technical correspondent R. J. Vander Wal asked to be released, and the work has been taken over by J. P. Harris, who is continuing the fine tradition of service to correspondents. Our thanks are due to both Dr. Vander Wal and Mr. Harris for their good work.

The sectional movement within the Society has continued to grow. The latest group to achieve sectional status is the North Central Oil Chemists' Society with headquarters in Chicago. This very active group has complied with all of the constitutional requirements and will be formally admitted as the North Central Section at this meeting. The Society is happy to welcome this group as a section and congratulates its officers and members upon the achievement of their initial objective. It is hoped that other groups in various stages of development will continue their progress and ultimately achieve sectional status also. The sectional movement has provided a splendid impetus to the growth of the Society membership rolls.

During the past year the Governing Board has taken cognizance of the fact that the fiscal year of the Society, which is the calendar year, does not coincide with the tenure of office of the elected officials. A committee under the chairmanship of Reid T. Milner made a careful study of the factors involved and concluded that the present arrangement is best suited to the conduct of Society affairs and should not be changed. Our thanks are due to Dr. Milner and his committee for their painstaking reappraisal of this situation.

ONE OF THE services which the A.O.C.S. offers to its members and to the industry generally is a series of short courses on certain phases of the fat and oil industry. For the past several years these courses have been held annually during the summer months. The courses are addressed by outstanding authorities in their fields and offer an opportunity to qualified individuals to familiarize themselves with specialized branches of fat and oil technology and science. Further, the lectures are published in their entirety in the Journal of the A.O.C.S., thus making them available to the membership generally.

Such a course was held last summer at Lehigh University on the subject of Inedible Fats and Fatty Acids under the chairmanship of Daniel Swern. This course was enthusiastically received and well attended. We extend our thanks to Dr. Swern for his excellent work. Another course, on Analytical Techniques, is scheduled for this summer at the University of Illinois. The plans are well under way, and all advance indications point to another great success. The administration of the short courses is directed by the Education Committee which for the past two years has been under the chairmanship of George Crapple. The success of the short course is due in no small measure to the time and effort which the committee has put forth.

During the past year the Society lost 10 members by death. Most prominent among these who have passed to the Great Beyond are Ralph Fash, president of the A.O.C.S. during 1926, and T. B. Caldwell, secretary-treasurer during the period 1920-1925 inclusive. The other members are: Samuel Gerstein, L. F. Hoyt, C. W. Kirk, R. H. McCormack, Clinton Morris, Frank W. Porter, W. I. Upson, and Herbert J. Wissel.

This report would be incomplete without a reference to the founding fathers of our organization. The nine men, most of whom were in their twenties, who met back in 1909 to begin this Society perhaps did not foresee the extent to which their early efforts would succeed, but they established the sound con-