

Seventh Short Course - Analytical Techniques

THE SEVENTH SHORT COURSE of the American Oil Chemists' Society will be held at the University of Illinois, and the theme will be "Analytical Techniques as Applied to Control and Research."

Both the location and the topic raise memories for many of us. The first Short Course was held at Urbana, August 16-21, 1948. Earlier the Governing Board had given much thought to activities that would be of maximum benefit to the Society as a whole. Several good suggestions were considered and rejected in favor of what we now call the Short Course. When the University of Illinois was approached, we found a spirit of complete cooperation, and there was general agreement that this first gathering was a great success.



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In many respects this Short Course set the pattern for all that followed. It was announced in February, 1948, that the course would be given and the topic "Vegetable Oils, Their Production, Processing, and Uses" was published in the March Journal. The course was such a success that the Education Committee gave a repeat performance the next year, again at Illinois. In the years since 1949 the meetings have moved far afield, to Minnesota, New Jersey, Texas, and Pennsylvania. Now we return to the university, and we are privileged to have two of the men, Professors T. S. Hamilton and R. K. Newton, who contributed so much to the first course, working again on the Seventh Course.

The topic for the Seventh Course can be classed with the Fifth in that it is based on a general procedure rather than a type of product. Instead of engineering however, attention will be concentrated on analysis. This seems especially appropriate in 1955 because just 10 years ago much attention was being given to analytical methods by a great many members of the A.O.C.S. One of the major accomplishments of our Society, and one that has been an important factor in our growth and international reputation, has been the "Official Methods of Analysis of the A.O.C.S." The second edition, in greatly expanded and improved form, appeared in 1946 under the editorship of V. C. Mehlenbacher and contained the contributions of a large and loyal group of working members. The publication date of the Second Edition is 1946, but the major portion of the work of checking, rewriting, and revising was done in 1945. Our Official Methods today, of course, are much different from that 1946 edition, but we should pay tribute to our early leaders who provided such a practical and easy technique for keeping our methods alive and up-to-date.

THE SEVENTH Short Course will provide a program of outstanding speakers, who will take us to the very borders of analytical research. Many of the new research techniques that will be discussed cannot at present be reduced to the accuracy and precision that we demand of an official method. Some lectures to be given will describe equipment that is not now generally available and hence is unsuited to A.O.C.S. methods at the present time. In these and other cases however we can be sure that the lecture and discussion periods, as in the past, will give those attending a clearer, more complete picture than can be obtained in any other way. It will be interesting to see in the future how many new methods or modifications of our Official Methods will result from the meeting next August.

We are grateful to our fine speakers who will contribute their time and energy to the success of the course. We extend an invitation to everyone, members and non-members alike (within the limits of our capacity), to register now and plan once again to enjoy and benefit from a short course at Urbana. To those who have been at the university before we can promise some of the same attractions, the air-conditioned comfort of Gregory hall and the fish fry at beautiful Allerton park. To all others we can recommend attendance at the Seventh Course, August 1-5, 1955, to be held at the University of Illinois, "Home of the A.O.C.S. Short Course."

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