

Presidential Address

ONCE AGAIN it becomes the duty and privilege of the President to report upon the physical status of our Society and also to outline in a broad sense its progress in carrying on our objectives as defined by our constitution. These objectives are similar to those of most professional societies and include the dissemination of scientific knowledge, the promotion of research, the standardization of methods, and the advancement of our profession. I believe that any professional society grows and prospers in a direct ratio to the quality of the services it renders to its members and to the profession in general. The fact that our Society continues to grow and expand, both in strength and in service, is a testimonial to the loyalty and zeal of its members who, by their unselfish devotion to its work, are responsible for our success.



W. A. Peterson

I am happy to report that our Society is in a very healthy condition, both in its physical strength and in its contributions to science and industry. Evidence of this has already been given in part by the reports of the secretary and treasurer and will evolve further from other reports to follow during this meeting. It would be unfair of me to "steal thunder" from these reports by giving details which more properly belong to them, and I shall refrain from this except in cases where additional emphasis seems warranted. It is important that our physical and financial condition be sound in order to support our operating costs, which continue to increase, reflecting, in general, the rising production costs of the Journal and all other business costs. In spite of increasing costs our income during 1955 exceeded expenses by \$7,277. One of the factors contributing to this healthy condition is that our Journal advertising, which accounts for about half our income, reached an all-time high in 1955 at slightly more than \$46,000, which exceeded our budget estimate by \$7,500. This is a glowing tribute to the work

of our Advertising Committee, headed by John P. Harris, assisted by "Doc" (A. E.) MacGee, all of the committee members, and Harley L. Ward, our advertising manager. It is interesting to note, in passing, that the advertising revenue 10 years ago, in 1945, was \$12,500 and that now we have reached almost four times this figure. The Society owes these men a debt of gratitude that is difficult to put into words.

You will shortly hear from our vice president and membership chairman, T. H. Hopper, and will be gratified to know that a significant gain in membership was accomplished this year—a tribute to him, his hard-working committee, and all of the members who participated. At the risk of redundancy, let me say again what has been said before, that this job should not be left solely to the Membership Committee; we must all, as individuals, try to gain at least a few new members each year. Many of us have done this, but if we all joined in the effort, we could easily double our membership in a short time.

During the year four of our members retired from active service and were advanced to the status of members emeritus; W. R. Stryker, E. C. Ainslie, S. O. Sorensen, and H. S. Mitchell. All are past presidents. To these men we extend our congratulations and best wishes for good health and happiness and hope that we will continue to see them as often as in the past.

The one note of sadness which we have to report each year is the loss of some of our members by death. Two of these were past presidents of our Society.

G. Worthen Agee was one of the original group of nine chemists who met on May 20, 1909, and took the initial steps to organize the Society of Cotton Products Analysts, which later became the American Oil Chemists' Society. Mr. Agee became president of the Society in 1914 and throughout his career was active on many of its committees. He came to be deeply respected and admired by all who knew him. His passing, on July 25, 1955, was a real blow to the Society.

Nick Hamner, another past president, joined the Society in 1918 and became its president in 1932. He also served the Society in many capacities, and it was with keen regret that we learned of his passing on February 15 of this year.

Others who have passed on are: Harold M. Barnett, David Crampton, Gustav Egloff, Seymour Faulkner, Egbert B. Freyer, Norman C. Hill, K. E. Johnson, Jean N. Pantelides, J. A. Reynolds, and Hubert M. Shilstone.

In his presidential address last year C. E. Morris pointed out that the members' equity in the Society, at the end of 1954, was \$56,000. At the end of 1955 this stood at \$74,363.30. Thus we find that our Society remains strong in membership and finances. It must be remembered that, while we are not in business to make money, it is still necessary to maintain a financial position which will provide a bulwark against any unforeseeable financial crisis that could occur if for any reason we were to suffer a serious loss of revenue.

(Continued on page 12)

A.O.C.S. Commentary

(Continued from page 4)

However comfortable our physical position may be, we cannot be complacent about it for the real measure of our future success will always be in the intelligence and zeal with which we administer our physical assets and translate them into services that are recognized by our profession as worthwhile contributions to its progress. This is the foundation upon which any true scientific society must rest. I shall now report on some of the events of the past year as they relate to this objective.

At the Philadelphia Meeting last October we had the pleasure of granting a charter to the Southwest Section, the fourth local section to be chartered. The establishment of four local sections during the past few years is a very encouraging sign and should do much to stimulate interest in the affairs of the Society and to increase its membership. It is our hope that other areas will consider the advantages of becoming local sections, to provide a broader scientific forum and a means of fellowship, and thereby supplementing our national meetings.

During 1955 the First Fatty Acid Award for outstanding research in the field of fatty acids was presented at our Philadelphia Meeting. This award is sponsored by the Fatty Acid Producers' Association and, at their request, is being administered by our Society. A similar award has been announced for 1956. Our Society is proud to have been selected as the medium for judging the papers submitted and otherwise administering and presenting this award.

Our Journal continues to grow in scientific stature and in physical size. You will hear the details of this shortly from our Journal editor, Dick Baldwin. The number of technical pages has again increased and is now practically double that of 10 years ago. The quality and diversity of published material continues to improve and to extend into a wider variety of related scientific fields. Today our Journal is truly recognized as the best in its field, and its contribution to scientific literature serves not only the chemists of today but will serve the generations of chemists to come. For this we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dick Baldwin, our Journal editor, his associate editors, and all those serving on the Journal committees.

Another significant contribution of our Society is the Short Course. In 1955 our 7th Short Course was held at the University of Illinois on the subject of Analytical Techniques, under the sponsorship of the Education Committee of which George Crapple is chairman. New techniques in analytical chemistry are advancing so rapidly that this course was particularly appropriate at this time. All of our short courses have been received with enthusiasm, and our thanks go to Mr. Crapple and his committee, to the University of Illinois, and to all those who gave of their time and effort to participate as faculty members. K. F. Mattil, present chairman of the Education Committee, has just announced a Short Course for 1956 to be given at Purdue University on the subject of "Unit Processes in Fatty Oil, Soap, and Detergent Industries." Preliminary details were given in the April issue of the Journal, and we are sure that this subject will attract a record registration.

IT HAD BECOME increasingly apparent that we needed a new technical committee to work on standard methods for the analysis of synthetic detergents. A new committee structure was worked out last year by the formation of a joint AOCS-ASTM Committee for the Analysis of Soaps and Synthetic Detergents, to replace the former Soap Analysis Committee, and we were fortunate in obtaining the services of Jay C. Harris, an outstanding authority in this field, as chairman. The organization of this committee is now similar to that of the Fat Analysis Committee in that the work load is divided among a large number of subcommittees or task groups, each one assigned to only one problem. I cannot leave this subject without expressing our thanks to E. W. Blank, who, after serving so ably on the Soap Analysis Committee since 1942 and as its chairman since 1949, wished to relinquish the chairmanship at this time.

One of our basic services is the continued development and improvement of analytical methods, which is done through our large group of technical committees, our Uniform Methods Committee, and our editor of Methods. With the accelerated pace of progress in new analytical techniques it is more important than ever to keep abreast of these developments and to take advantage of them whenever they can serve our needs. This is, and will continue to be, a challenge which is being well administered. It is difficult for most of us to visualize the monumental amount of work that is going on all the time among these many committees, and it is a great tribute to the many men who give their time freely and without fanfare or material reward. I take this opportunity to salute these men and express the thanks of the Society. The committees and the men involved are far too numerous to mention individually, but to each of them we can but give our congratulations for a job well done and express our confidence that the challenge of the future will be met.

During the year we extended the hand of fellowship abroad by contributing \$100 to the International Society for Fat Science. This new organization is in the formative stage in Europe, and we were happy to make this nominal contribution toward their initial organizational expenses. We are sure that the goodwill generated by this gesture will return to us manifold in the form of cordial relations with our fellow scientists in Europe.

Further work has been done during the year on the problem of reviewing the whole structure of our constitution and by-laws so as to define in our constitution only our broad objectives and policies, to have our by-laws define our code of procedures and regulations, to provide for a Junior classification of membership, and to make such other changes as will permit more flexibility of operation where advisable. A special committee, headed by Dan L. Henry, has drafted the proposed revisions and has cleared the legal questions with our counsel. We hope to place this before the membership this year for final adoption.

THE IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS of the Smalley Committee and the Referee Board have been handled very capably by their chairmen, R. W. Bates and N. W. Ziels, respectively. At the recommendation of Mr. Bates the grading system used in connection with the award of the Smalley Cup was changed to include

the combined proficiency on oil, nitrogen, and moisture on oil seed meal.

Our meetings this year, as always, have been outstanding features of our activity. Our Spring Meeting in New Orleans, under the general chairmanship of Ralph Persell, was, as always in that city of great hospitality and charm, a rewarding experience both technically and socially, for all who attended. To the New Orleans Committee thanks for a fine job and the assurance that we are looking forward to our return next spring. The Fall Meeting was held in Philadelphia, under the sponsorship of the Northeast Section, and proved to be an outstanding success, not only in attendance but also in the high quality of the papers presented, thanks to the hard-working local committee, headed by Phil Ronzone, general chairman.

Our meeting in Houston promises to be another star in the crown of the local committee, headed by Bill Argue and assisted by an enthusiastic group of committee men and women. These meetings, besides providing a forum for scientific interchange, do a great deal to build and maintain personal contacts and friendships, thus breathing life and spirit into our Society which, even though it has grown in size far beyond what must have been contemplated by the original group of nine chemists who met back in 1909 and laid our foundations, nevertheless retains a surprising degree of fellowship and *esprit de corps*.

And last, but by no means least, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Lucy Hawkins, our ex-

ecutive secretary, who has been of inestimable help to me and the other officers of the Society in her very capable handling of the Society's business matters. Here again, few of us are aware of the great mass of detail that goes on behind the scenes but is so necessary to smooth operation.

I am deeply appreciative of having had the honor of serving as president during the past year and am keenly grateful for the encouragement and support of the Governing Board and of all of the committees, and others who gave me encouragement and full support. It is truly an honor since the president does not do a great deal by himself; all of the real work is done by the officers, the Governing Board, Mrs. Hawkins, and the administrative and technical committees. Their help and their devotion to the interests of the Society have made my term of office one of great satisfaction and pleasure, and for this I thank all of them and you.

In closing, I should like to extend to my successor, Mr. Hopper, to the officers and others on the Governing Board, and to all of the membership my best wishes for a happy and successful year ahead.

W. A. PETERSON.

Offers Soap Yearbook

The 14th annual Soap, Perfumery and Cosmetics Yearbook and Buyers' Guide is available from United Trade Press Ltd., Boswell House, 9 Gough square, London E. C. 4, England, at 30 shillings, or about \$4.20, per copy.



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