

Presidential Address

IT IS A PRIVILEGE and a pleasure of the president to report on the status of our Society and to outline in a general manner its progress in carrying out our objectives. These have included dissemination of scientific information, promotion of research, standardization of methods, advancement of our professions, and increase in fraternal relations in the fat and oil and related industries. The continued growth and prosperity of our Society are a testimony to, and directly correlated with, the service it renders and to the loyalty, interest, and efforts of its members. A tribute needs to be paid to the large number of members who have unselfishly contributed their time and efforts without anticipating or receiving any reward other than good will and their personal feeling of satisfaction. The extent of member participation is indicated by the need of making more than 650 committee and other appointments during the year. A good number of members serve on two or more committees.



T. H. Hopper

Evidence of the condition and strength of the Society is given in the reports of the secretary and the treasurer. The gross income for 1956 was the highest on record for the Society, and so were the expenses. The auditor's report showed a combined net gain of income over expenses for the Society and the Journal of \$10,300 for the year ending December 31, 1956. A major factor contributing to our good fiscal condition is that our Journal advertising reached an all-time high of \$48,600, an outstanding evidence of the intensive and extensive efforts of all members of the Advertising Committee, of which "Doc" (A. E.) MacGee is chairman, and of the advertising staff. The Society is grateful to these men for their accomplishments. Your president hopes that each member of the Society will thank them personally.

At the end of 1956 the members' equity was \$84,700, a gain of more than \$10,000. While we are not in the business of making money, an adequate reserve is essential. It is necessary to maintain a financial position which will permit meeting an unforeseeable situation that may occur should a serious loss of revenue happen. It is reasonable to assume that this should be two years' minimum operating budget.

The significant gain in membership is a tribute to our vice president, H. C. Black, and others who have served on the Membership Committee and to the many loyal members who have served unofficially. The total membership on December 31, 1956, was 2,546, a record high. As has been said many times before, this committee needs the continuing support and efforts of every member of the Society, not only to maintain but also to gain in membership each succeeding year.

Two members have retired from active professional service and have been advanced to emeritus membership. We extend to Julius Pelofsky and Rozier D. Oilar our best wishes for many happy years yet to come and hope that we may see them frequently at our meetings.

It is with sincere sadness that we report the loss of some of our members by death. Two of them were past presidents of the Society.

E. R. Barrow was one of the original group of chemists who in May 1909 met and took the initial steps to form an organization which has become the American Oil Chemists' Society. He became president in 1914 and served on the Refining Committee for 30 years (1916-1946). Mr. Barrow served the Society in many other capacities and was deeply respected and admired by all who knew him. His passing, on December 10, 1956, was the loss of a friend and loyal associate.

C. H. Cox joined the Society in 1916 and was elected president in 1938. Through his passing on December 9, 1956, we have lost a loyal member and friend, who served on a number of technical committees in addition to the Board.

The passing of H. J. Deuel Jr., and Henry R. Kraybill earlier in the year has removed two widely known and appreciated scientists. Others who have passed on are Wallace H. Dickhart, Henry A. Golwynne, and Charles A. Heilmann.

WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED to our editor, A. R. Baldwin, and his associates for the continued growth and improvement in our Journal. It has become recognized world-wide as a source of scientific information and data on fats and oils and related products. The quality and diversity of fundamental and applied research results found in the columns of the Journal serve both industrial and research purposes. Special mention is made of the contribution of M. M. Piskur and his associates for the annual review of the literature, also of the services performed by the associate editors, W. C. Ault, B. W. Beadle, J. C. Cowan, F. A. Kummerow, R. T. O'Connor, Dorothy M. Rathmann, and D. H. Wheeler. Any curtailment in the quality and coverage of subject matter in the Journal would be a serious loss to the fat and oil industry.

The work of many other committees has been as outstanding. The Education Committee, of which Karl F. Mattil is chairman, conducted a highly successful short course in July 1956 at Purdue University, for which the topic was "Unit Processes in the Fatty Oil, Soap, and Detergent Industries." Forrest W. Quaekenbush was the local chairman of this short course, which was attended by 103 regis-

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A.O.C.S. Commentary

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trants to hear the lectures given by 25 selected authorities. Circumstances have made it necessary to defer holding the next short course until 1958 however.

The total number of participants in the check sample testing conducted by the Smalley Committee was 491, the largest in any one year since the committee was established in 1918. The general chairman, R. W. Bates, and the subcommittee chairmen, R. T. Doughtie Jr., J. P. Hewlett, D. L. Henry, Loyd V. Anderson, J. T. Houle, and D. L. Stingley, are to be highly commended for their able handling of this activity, which serves the commercial handling of the commodities through assisting in maintaining an even level of analysis or testing.

The Referee Board, of which N. W. Ziels is chairman, has issued 51 Referee Certificates to qualified applicants in 38 different laboratories and in four sets of classifications.

The rapid increase in the development of new techniques and instruments and the growing needs have necessitated continued development of and improvement in analytical methods by an enlarging group of technical committees and our Uniform Methods Committee. The 1956 additions and revisions involved 22 methods. Indications are that action will be taken on more than 30 methods at this meeting. It can be said that the situation is dynamic and that high tribute is due to all participants in the work of the technical committees, which is so important to the industry and to research. It is impossible to visualize fully the amount of effort applied to the work

by these committees and the contribution made by the organizations in which they are employed.

An outstanding achievement during the year has been the organization of the Technical Safety Committee by and with "Doc" (A. E.) MacGee as chairman. Through the efforts of him and his associates an excellent symposium on safety was held during the fall meeting in Chicago. An equal or superior one has been developed as part of the technical program of the New Orleans meeting. With wider use of solvents, technical safety has become an important concern to all solvent "users" in the industry.

THE SPECIAL CONSTITUTION and by-laws committee, after serious study and with advice of legal counsel and the approval of the Governing Board, recommended revisions which were placed before the active voting membership for approval by proxy. The significant changes are a) provision for junior members, b) relieving the president from serving as a member of the Referee Board, and c) placing those items in the by-laws which may need revision in the future. We are pleased that the recommended revisions have met with your approval.

Our meetings have continued to be outstanding events from a technical, fraternal, and social standpoint. The spring meeting in Houston, under the general chairmanship of William Argue, will be remembered pleasantly for a long time by all who attended it. A goal was set which other local committees will find hard to reach. The fall meeting in Chicago was unusually successful. Thanks for the arrangement of it are due the local group, headed by A. F. Kapecki and C. W. Hoerr. The New Orleans committee, with R. M. Persell as general chairman, has obtained the largest technical program, to date, for this meeting—60 technical papers.

The second Fatty Acid Award, sponsored by the Fatty Acid Producers' Council and administered by the Society, was presented at the fall meeting to G. W. Preckshot and J. F. Nouri of the University of Minnesota.

Appreciation must be expressed to Mrs. Lucy R. Hawkins, our executive secretary, and her associates at National Headquarters, for the handling of the large amount of detail so essential to the smooth operation of Society affairs and publication of the Journal. Mrs. Hawkins has been of inestimable aid to me and others in capably handling the business and other affairs of the Society.

I sincerely appreciate having had the honor of serving as president during the past year. The interest and loyal support of the Governing Board and the hundreds who have served on administrative and technical committees and as members of local sections in conducting the affairs of the Society is deeply appreciated. Full credit for a successful year is due them as they, together with Mrs. Hawkins and her associates at National Headquarters, do the real work. I wish to express my thanks to them and to all members of the Society.

In closing, I extend to my successor, Dr. Black, other elected and *ex officio* members of the Governing Board, and all the membership my best wishes for a prosperous and successful year ahead.

T. H. HOPPER

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Cambridge, Mass., has announced two one-week summer courses in spectroscopy: June 17-21, 1957, "Technique of Infrared Spectroscopy," and June 24-28, 1957, "Applications of Infrared Spectroscopy."

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