

Presidential Address

THE PAST YEAR has been a significant one for scientists and technicians. The launching of Sputnik I brought scientists and science to the front page. Whether this is good or bad in the long run is difficult to judge now. There is danger that scientists will be associated with space explorations and vehicles while the fact that scientists are contributing to our health, comfort, standard of living, and the more conventional forms of defense is likely not to be understood.

At any rate, there is a tremendous upsurge and interest in science among our young people. Our freedom must be maintained to allow full development of this interest. In turn, it will help keep us free.



H. C. Black

The activities of our Society have been less spectacular, but still highly significant. Our science and technology have progressed. Hundreds of our members continued to serve on committees, and many served for the first time. A compilation of the number of hours spent by our officers and members on the work of the Society would give figures hard to believe. The only reward is a feeling of accomplishment and advancement of the Society and our profession.

Our membership continued to grow because of the productive efforts of our membership chairman and vice president, J. C. Konen, and his committee. On December 31, 1957, there were 2,661 members. The Society must continue to grow, and many new members must be added each year to provide this in view of the losses of members, largely because of the changes in their activities.

During the year Morris Durkee, C. P. Long, and Martin A. Beck were transferred to emeritus membership. We extend our best wishes to them for a long, happy retirement, and we know that they will continue to be somewhat active in the Society.

We report with deep regret the passing of four of our members. They are Arnold Wolf, Morris Katzman, Ludwig W. Wasum, and George S. Clark Sr. Mr. Clark joined the Society in 1915 and had many friends in it.

The Education Committee postponed the Short Course of last year until 1958 in order to insure a successful one. The program and details of the course to be held at Princeton, N. J., in July, have been handled by F. D. Snell and his committee. It will cover soaps and syndets. Karl Mattil and his Education Committee have undertaken a project on encouragement of research and teaching of fats and oils and related materials in the colleges and universities.

On the international scene we invited several Russian oil chemists to our Cincinnati meeting, but their visas were not received by the State Department in time. Henry Salomon, secretary of the Northeast Section, had arranged a tour of laboratories and plants in the United States for them. W. A. Lundberg was given the Normann Medal by our German counterpart, Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fettwissenschaft. He carried our greetings to them.

This year marked the 40th consecutive year of the activities of the Smalley Committee. The participation in check sample analysis continued to grow. Thirty-eight members served under R. W. Bates, chairman of this committee. The details of this committee are becoming increasingly difficult, and a way to handle more of them in the central office must be worked out.

The Examination Board under N. W. Ziels issued referee certificates to qualified members. Under new provisions of the constitution and by-laws the Board also worked up new rules for certification of referee chemists.

Our technical committees continued to develop new and improved methods, and many were adopted as Tentative or Official after careful study and on the recommendation of the Uniform Methods Committee, under its chairman, J. T. R. Andrews. Many more methods will be considered at this meeting.

The Fatty Acid Awards Committee, under C. W. Hoerr, administered this award, made by the Fatty Acid Producers' Council and presented it to Messrs. Ashley, Manning, and Paolini of the Drexel Institute of Technology at the Cincinnati meeting.

Two very pleasant and successful meetings of the Society were held during the year. The New Orleans Committee was headed by R. M. Persell and the Cincinnati Committee by A. K. Presnell.

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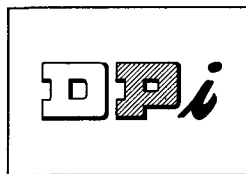
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A.O.C.S. Commentary

(Continued from page 4)

A. E. MacGee expanded the membership and activities of the Technical Safety Committee.

At the New Orleans meeting amendments to modernize and make more workable the constitution and by-laws of the Society were approved.

Even though the editorial pages of the Journal were down slightly, because of the lack of a Short Course, the Journal made significant advances under A. R. Baldwin, and it continues to be the outstanding journal of the world in the field. One-third of our subscribers are in foreign countries. The quality of the papers improved. After 24 years of writing the Annual Review M. M. Piskur has asked to be relieved of this committee's chairmanship. In October a page on economics was inaugurated. The masthead on page 2 was given a new look in January. News was spread throughout the advertising section. Under study are other items to make the Journal more attractive and useful.

Much attention and effort were given to increasing our advertising revenue by Mrs. Hawkins and her staff and by Dr. MacGee and the Advertising Committee. Four promotional pieces were developed largely by Mrs. Hawkins and Dr. MacGee and mailed to prospective advertisers. New stationery was instituted. A new contract was worked out with our advertising representative. Advertising rates were increased, but the benefits did not accrue during 1957.

The only unfavorable portion of the year's activity is the financial picture. The Society had a deficit for the year of \$1,083. This is attributable largely to the lower advertising revenue, which was \$4,425 less than the 1956 revenue. This revenue can and must be increased, and the editor, Advertising Committee, and Governing Board have the problem under consideration. A dues increase is under study by a special committee headed by the treasurer, A. F. Kapecki. In spite of the deficit the Society is in strong financial condition, having a net worth of more than \$83,000.

Our Society has the strength, resources, and ability to go forward to new heights.

It has been a real honor, privilege, and pleasure to serve as your president during the past year. The helpfulness of the Governing Board, the many committees, members, and especially Mrs. Hawkins and her staff made the position a pleasure. We have a strong Society, and I am sure the problems facing it will be solved.

May I extend to my successor, J. C. Konen, and his Governing Board my best wishes for a successful coming year!

H. C. BLACK

The final dinner meeting of the 1957-58 season for the Northeast Section, American Oil Chemists' Society, will be held at Whyte's restaurant on Fulton street, New York City, at 6:30 p. m., June 3. Arnold G. Wilbur, product development department, Celanese Corporation, will speak on "Fat-Derived Plasticizers."

H. G. SALOMON, secretary

J. B. Brown, head of the department of physiological chemistry and pharmacology, also director of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology, Ohio State University, Columbus, spoke on "The Essential Fatty Acids" March 26 at the dinner meeting of the North Central Section.

T. W. FINDLEY, program chairman