

## The Third Congress of the International Society of Fatscience

PROGRESS in so wide a field as fats science is only possible through the cooperation of specialists in many branches of knowledge. A great number of scientists are working in the world in such major subjects as fats analysis, fats metabolism, fatty foods technology, detergents and detergency, etc. The basic training of these men differs widely, according to the subject-matter of their work, and there is a definite lack of "cross-linking" between them. Biologists frequently ignore the developments in chemical analysis which could facilitate their work. On the other hand, most chemists working on the analysis of fats devote themselves to the application of industrial and commercial interests and pay but little attention to the microtechniques so urgently needed for the advancement of biological research. Examples of this sort are easily found also among economists, physicians, chemical engineers, etc.



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This situation holds also for international relations and meetings. The international congresses of biochemistry, agricultural and food industries, industrial chemistry, etc., frequently incorporate a section on fats; but it has been in the past impossible to find biologists, food technologists, chemical engineers, etc., working together in a congress devoted to the study of fats. The convenience of integrating chemists, physicians, economists, and other specialists in a unique society of international scope therefore became evident. This feeling was accurately interpreted by H. P. Kaufmann, president of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fettwissenschaft (D.G.F.), to whom we are indebted for the creation of the International Society for Fatscience (I.S.F.). He addressed an appeal to well-known specialists of many countries. Preliminary meetings were held in Hannover (1953) and in Münster (1955) during the annual D.G.F. meetings, and the basis for the constitution of the new Society was established. The first Congress of the I.S.F. was held in Milan (1956) under the presidency of Giovanni Jacini, director of the Italian Stazione Sperimentale Olii e Grassi.

THE ACTUAL ORGANIZATION of the I.S.F. is very simple. There is no limitation for membership based on the total number of members or on professions. The only permanent office is that of the secretary: G. Gorbach of the Technische Hochschule of Graz (Austria). The president is elected at every meeting, as the person to be responsible for the organization of the next Congress. The president is the voice of the Society, and his relations with the members are direct, without the intermediation of any national organization. The advantages of this simple organization were emphasized by Dr. Kaufmann in a guest editorial in this same Journal (December, 1956): "In this manner there is a possibility of having representatives of science and technology working together without having the difficulty which became apparent in the past because of political resentment, questions of personal prestige, and personal animosity."

More than 300 specialists from 23 countries are now members of the I.S.F. The second Congress of the Society was held in Paris (1957) under the presidency of Dr. Paquot, Director of the Laboratories for Fat Research of the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique of France. The "compte-rendu" of the Congress and the lectures have been recently published in a special issue of the French Journal *Oleagineux*.

SEVILLA will be the scene of the third Congress of the I.S.F., to be held, according to the decision taken in Paris, September 23-25. This Spanish town is a first-order attraction of international tourism because of its natural beauty, sunny sky, and famous monuments. It is also a very important center for the production of and trade in olive oil and olive fruits for the table. From the research standpoint Sevilla is the home of the Spanish Instituto de la Grasa, an important institution devoted to research on fats and related products, especially to olive oil production and to the pickling of green olives. This Instituto sponsors the third Congress of the I.S.F.

More than 200 preliminary registrations to the Congress have been received to date, and 52 scientific papers have been announced. General lectures will also be given on subjects related to basic problems in the field of fats research. A program of visits to industrial factories in Sevilla and Jerez and post-Congress tours in Andalucia are being organized. Information about the Congress and the titles of papers will be sent upon request.

American scientists interested in these activities are cordially invited to participate in the next Congress in Sevilla and to join the International Society for Fatscience.

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