

Will You Invest in the A.O.C.S.?

THE American Oil Chemists' Society for 15 years has had a direct influence on many of my activities. As editor of the *Journal*, I have had the pleasure and privilege to be more closely associated with the Society than otherwise would have been possible. During this time several observations have been made. In passing these along, perhaps they will be of interest or challenge to others.

"What can this organization do for me?" is a frequently asked question. It applies to church groups, fraternal organizations, social clubs, or scientific societies. Perhaps the question should be phrased, "What can I do for this organization?" At least this is more consistent with the old adages, "You get out no more than you put in" or "The more you give, the more you get." In this age when there seems to be a tendency to try to get something without working, it is refreshing to consider the personal contributions of time and energy made to the Society by hundreds of our A.O.C.S. members.

The officers of the Society provide direction and set the general policies by which the Chicago office staff and the numerous working committees function. Travel, correspondence, and managerial effort are all involved. The soundness of the Society's operations attests to the good job that many people have been doing in this capacity for 50 years.

Forty-five technical committees and subcommittees with about 500 members are constantly at work to improve the analytical methods used in all phases of research, development control, and trading in the field of fats and related products. These are edited by another member of the Society and published in the *A.O.C.S. Methods* book. Much time and expense are contributed by these men and the companies or institutions they represent. The benefits to basic research and to the industry served by the Society are even more significant.

There are 18 administrative committees and subcommittees in the Society. These perform such important functions as examining and certifying as referee chemists those laboratories which meet the requirements necessary to act as referees in trading of such large-



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volume commodities as soybean and cottonseed oils. The Education Committee conducts a one-week short course on an important phase of industrial activities, such as drying oils, edible fat products, soaps and detergents, and industrial fat products. Lectures from these courses have been made available to others through the *Journal*.

THE SMALLEY COMMITTEE supervises collaborative testing work on many fat products in dozens of cooperating laboratories. This important function aids in the establishment of better methods of analysis and in the selection of referee chemists. Work of the convention, publicity, exhibits, special awards, local sections, membership, and election committees is interesting and challenging. It provides impetus which keeps the Society growing. It gives the spark which stimulates the members into making this the "most friendly" scientific organization in the country.

Publication of this *Journal* is another important contribution of the Society and one which in

many ways provides the thread that binds the Society together. News, announcements, and personal information about our members are disseminated through the *Journal*. Scientific papers on an ever-broadening scope are printed as a service to readers and authors. Abstracts of important literature in other journals and annual literature reviews are provided for the busy readers who would find it impossible to peruse the tremendous volume of current scientific literature in our fields of interest. Advertising in the *Journal* acquaints our readers with the products of most of the important suppliers to the fat and associated industries; at the same time this is a source of revenue which actually makes the *Journal* possible. Nearly 50 men and women serve on the *Journal* committees (Abstracts, Advertising, *Journal*, and Literature Review).

The associate editors and the many reviewers of books and scientific papers all work together to help make the *Journal* an outstanding technical publication. Other ways in which people contribute to the Society are through the local section activities, local convention committees, participation in the short course or convention programs, and presentation of scientific papers for publication.

All those who have come into direct contact with the Society have been impressed with the earnestness, sincerity, and friendliness of the people in it. These people are obviously enjoying their contribution to Society endeavor.

Are you getting out of your organization all you should? If not, perhaps there is an additional job, a different interest, a new activity within the organization that would provide the challenge you enjoy. Your personal participation in the Society affairs which most appeal to you will bring rewards far greater than your investment of time and talent.

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