The Drying Oil Short Course

IT IS APPROPRIATE in this 50th anniversary year of the American Oil Chemists' Society that the subject of the Short Course should be Drying Oils, one of the oldest known technical uses of fatty oils vying with soap and lubricants for the first written record of use. Under the joint sponsorship of the American Oil Chemists' Society and the University of Minnesota this year's Short Course will be held at the University's Center for Continuation Study, August 10 to 14.

Since the first A.O.C.S. Short Course was offered in 1948 more than a thousand chemists have benefited through this specialized training in the chemistry and technology of fats and oils. For the neophyte the Short Courses offer an unparalleled opportunity to acquire intensive knowledge; for the advanced chemist the courses given by ranking specialists fill in the holes in background and up-date critical information which so often makes the difference between getting a job done promptly or stumbling in the dark; for the specialist there are always new pieces of information, new concepts, and new interpretations to extend knowledge.

In many ways the chemistry of drying oils is more complex than that of other technical fat uses. Problems of extraction, refining, and bleaching are common to virtually all phases of fats and oils usage. The drying oil industry then becomes concerned with polymerization, esterification, oxidation, copolymerization, adduct formation, resin solution, splitting, and many other relatively complex technical operations. This year a truly competent faculty has been assembled under the leadership of Program Chairman D. H. Wheeler. Twenty lectures will cover the important phases of drying oil chemistry—Refining Methods, Drying Oils in Floor Coverings, Dehydrated Castor Oil, Isocyanate Drying Oils, Drying Oils in Varnishes, Copolymer Drying Oils, Chemistry of Autoxidation, and Oxidative Polymerization—and many other subjects. The faculty is a Who's Who in the field.

The Center for Continuation Study of the University of Minnesota is a self-contained "campus" in itself. Air-conditioned facilities are available for housing, meals, and lectures. The course will be limited to 100 registrants because of air-conditioned space limitations. Early registration will assure a place. There were mailings to all Society members in May, giving registration details and procedures.

M. W. Formo

WE ALL KNOW, but sometimes we forget that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The Short Course Committee is planning something for recreation too. Max Kantor, entertainment chairman, is debating with his committee the relative merits of a show boat ride down the Mississippi, a "pow-wow" (for the uninitiated this is a typically midwestern evening picnic with steaks, songs, and fun around a campfire), a dinner at one of the excellent St. Paul or Minneapolis restaurants, or an afternoon of golf, tennis, swimming, or boating followed by a dinner. With daylight saving in effect there will be daily opportunities for golf, sightseeing around the beautiful lakes which adorn the region, tennis, swimming, or other outside activities. The opportunity of combining the Short Course with a vacation at one of Minnesota's famed 10,000 lakes should not be overlooked.

The last Short Course on Drying Oils was held at the University of Minnesota in 1950. During the near decade which has intervened our knowledge has expanded, new raw materials have become available, and new processing techniques have been developed. Isocyanate modified oils, tall oil fatty acids in alkyd resins, and drying oil containing water-thinned resins are new. There are new monomers, polyols, and dibasic acids available for modification of drying oils. Although we still cannot fully explain why an oil film dries or how a film deteriorates on exposure to the elements, we are certainly considerably advanced in our understanding compared with nine years ago. The competitive aspects of drying oils have undergone revision with the advent of synthetics as binders for printing inks or protective and decorative coatings and the increased use of synthetics in floor covering. Analytical methods—ultraviolet spectroscopy, micromolecular distillation, infrared analysis, gas-liquid chromatography, partition or paper chromatography—have proved to be of extreme value in improving our knowledge of drying oil compositions and the changes occurring during processing. The present course will highlight these changes in raw materials, chemistry, and economics.

The American Oil Chemists' Society can be justly proud of the stature it has gained. Increasingly its publication, the Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society, is becoming the journal of choice for technical articles in the field of fats and oils chemistry.

The Short Course ranks very high in the list of important Society activities. Too rarely do chemists have the opportunity to pick up the accumulated information of experts—especially in an informal atmosphere where questions and discussion are encouraged. The Short Course offers just this opportunity. It is an important contribution of your society.

MARVIN W. FORMO, Chairman, 1959 Short Course, Archer-Daniels-Midland Company, Minneapolis, Minn.