

## The Education Committee and A.O.C.S. Short Courses

THE 11TH SHORT COURSE of the American Oil Chemists' Society will be held at the University of Illinois, July 25-27, 1960. L. R. Dugan Jr. has agreed to serve as program chairman with the following able men advising and assisting him: S. S. Fein, R. A. Reiners, H. T. Spanmuth, R. J. Vander Wal, and T. J. Weiss.

The subject of edible oils was chosen at the semicentennial meeting of the Society in New Orleans, and R. T. Milner, a past president of the Society and chairman of our first Short Course, will be in charge of Society arrangements at Urbana. Robert K. Newton of the University Extension Service, which is co-sponsoring the course, will represent the university. He is an old friend to those who have attended earlier courses.

The program committee has chosen to emphasize some of the newer developments on fats: nutrition in humans and animals, including special problems as related to health; technology of edible fats as related to morphology, hydrogenation, interesterification, specialty products, emulsifiers, and processing; legal aspects in fat and oil usage also will be given special attention as a result of recent laws and interpretations thereof. To round out an intensive program, the Short Course will include discussions on newer analytical techniques and on economic factors and practices.

This year we have decided to limit the course to three days to reduce total expenses but at the same time to offer substantially as full a course as has been scheduled at some recent five-day courses. This change is admittedly an experiment, but we believe it is a good change since it will save all concerned valuable time per lecture or unit. However we should like to receive your comments regarding this departure from previous standard operating procedures.

IN HIS OCTOBER 1957 A.O.C.S. Commentary, Karl F. Mattil, former Education chairman, ably told you about the Short Course objectives. I cannot improve on his statement. "During the past 10 years eight Short Courses have been conducted at various universities under the sponsorship of the American Oil Chemists' Society. These courses have represented the chief



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function of the Education Committee of the Society. A number of objectives have been kept in mind in planning and preparing these courses: a means for the Society to provide a service to its members and to the industries it represents; an opportunity to broaden the academic contacts of our Society and to bring the attention of various universities to the activities of our Society; and an opportunity to broaden the training and perspective of the younger men in our industries."

Frankly, we believe these Short Courses have served and will continue to serve a useful function for the Society. As with everything, changes may be required to meet the needs of our members. Last year attendance at the Short Course was not as good as expected. How can we improve attendance? How can we improve the course? What should the changes be? You, the members of the Society—the company, university, and government

executives—are best qualified to determine these needs. You who read this commentary are urged to write me or other members of the Education Committee with your suggestions or criticisms. We welcome your comments, with no punches pulled either in support or in opposition.

To help refresh your memory of Short Courses in the past, we have listed them:

- 1948—Edible Oils, Illinois
- 1949—Edible Oils, Illinois
- 1950—Drying Oils, Minnesota
- 1952—Soaps and Detergents, Rutgers
- 1953—Engineering Processes, Texas  
A and M
- 1954—Industrial Oils, Lehigh
- 1955—Analytical Techniques, Illinois
- 1956—Unit Processes, Purdue
- 1958—Syndets and Soap, Princeton
- 1959—Drying Oils, Minnesota

Do you have any specific suggestions for the next Short Course? what? when? or where? Let us have your ideas.

THIS YEAR we have taken action on the Governing Board's ruling to furnish, without charge for one year, an Active Junior Membership in the American Oil Chemists' Society to graduate students conducting research on lipids. This membership includes a year's subscription to the *Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society*.

By March 1960 25 applications for Active Junior Membership have been received. We believe more will follow. We believe this endeavor will stimulate interest in fat research. You will be interested to know that 83 letters were sent to known leaders of lipid research announcing this policy. Announcements concerning it have been placed in this *Journal* and in *Chemical and Engineering News*. You may expect further reports as this program progresses. Most interesting will be the number who become active members or renew their Junior Membership.

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