Presidential Address

THE American Oil Chemists' Society is in good condition with regard to finance, organization, and science and, as far as I know, it has been in good condition ever since it was founded 51 years ago.

Some of you have wondered how the small sum for Society operation, that is, $4.50 of the annual dues, will support much more than the office rent and supplies of official stationery. The fact is, the rent and stationery are about all the $4.50 does support. Each of the other Society's operations is paid for by those taking part. The analytical chemists pay the cost of the samples they test, the national conventions furnish money to assist in the overhead of the central office, and the short course attendees pay for the publication of the short course lectures.

The $5.50 that the members pay for a subscription to the Journal pays for only about one-third of the cost of the printing of the Journal; the advertisements provide the rest of the money. The fact that the members pay only one-third of the cost of the Journal is justified by some cynics who say that the average member reads only about one-third of the wide variety of articles in the Journal.

The Society has a total yearly income and outgo of about $100,000. Our aim is to break even, but in 1959 we added a few hundred dollars to our reserves. However the true income of our Society (and profit to the members) is the work of our numerous, hard-working committees. In the directory supplement that was printed last summer we had to use nine pages of fine print to list all the members of our technical and administrative committees.

THE SOCIETY continues to grow in size. The Membership Committee has searched for properly qualified candidates and, as a result of their work, we reached a new high in membership at the end of 1959, a total of 2,749.

The Education Committee arranged an excellent Short Course on drying oils in Minneapolis last year and now is planning an intensive course on edible oils to be held July 25–27, 1960, at the University of Illinois, Urbana. This committee is also encouraging research on fats and oils by post-graduate students and has been authorized to offer a one-year membership, free, to each graduate-school researcher working in the field of fats at a university of high standing.

N. D. Embree

The Smalley Committee, the Examination Board, the Uniform Methods Committee, and the Bond Award Committee have reports that will be published after the Dallas meeting. The other committee activities will result in actions later in the year.

The day-to-day operation of the Society's business and publication management is efficient and economical. The credit for this goes to the A.O.C.S. executive secretary and her small office staff. When necessary, they get assistance from some of our members in Chicago.

THE JOURNAL continues to be the world's leading scientific periodical specializing in articles concerning fat research and technology. The Methods with their constant improvements, guide analytical and research chemists around the world.

National meetings have maintained high standards. The 1959 Spring Meeting in New Orleans celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Society and was distinguished by an unusual number of foreign speakers and of past presidents returning to greet our present membership. The Fall Meeting was held in Los Angeles with a large attendance and an intensive scientific program.

The general state of technology in the oil and fat field is quite sound at the present time. Products such as margarine, shortening, salad oils, and other edible products are low in cost and better than ever in purity, flavor, and performance. Industrial products including drying oils, fatty acids, fat derivatives, and detergents are also improving in performance and variety.

The analytical side of fat and lipid work is now in the midst of a great period of progress. Twenty years ago when I joined the Society, there was a wave of enthusiasm because ultraviolet spectrophotometry, fractional and molecular distillation, and X-ray diffraction were giving new opportunities to oil chemists. At present a group of powerful new techniques is being exploited; these include chromatography, both vapor phase and liquid, countercurrent extraction, and infrared spectrophotometry.

These new analytical techniques have arrived at the proper time because fresh problems concerning the composition of fat products have been raised recently by various biochemical findings. Some reports concerning adverse biological effects of fats turned out to have been caused by nutritional imbalances created by the test diets. But some materials, such as the chick edema factor and the urea filtrate factor, are now known to occur in some industrial fat by-products as occasional impurities. Therefore these factors are added to the things to be identified chemically and to be looked for in all fat products.

ONE ASPECT of another year of the Society's operation which we all regret is that during the year some of our old friends and com-

(Continued on page 8)

• *Hobby Department*

ALFRED E. ("DOC") MACGEE has supplied various details concerning his hobby, and this account will be a blend of these with a thread of narrative. He concludes his notes thus: "the fairways seem to be getting longer from tee to green as the years go by, but with the assistance of the little golf carts they now have, I'm looking forward to swinging a golf club for many years to come."

But to begin properly—"My first remembrance of anything pertaining to golf was about 1914 while attending the Southwestern Louisiana Institute at LaFayette. There were no golf courses in that part of the country then, and golf was considered strictly a rich man's game. One of the professors however, J. Gilchrist, who had come over from Oxford, England, used to get out in the afternoons and putt the ball from hole to hole under the observation of us students."

After World War I, with subsequent schooling at Ohio State, he found that the game had been making progress. One of the courses at Columbus was a municipal one, and on it in 1925 he played his first game with a professor and two research engineers. By the end of the summer he qualified in Flight A for the annual tournament and won (as he puts it) because two or three other players defaulted. Then he joined the Arlington Country Club and played regularly for about three years. He was a spectator at the American Open in 1926 at the Scioto Country Club, which was won by the immortal Bobby Jones.

Now to pick up his notes verbatim: "after leaving Columbus for industrial jobs in Charleston, W. Va., and Chicago, my time was too limited to permit playing, but instead of throwing away or selling my clubs, I simply piled them in first one corner and then another for 17 years. I played only one round of golf, in New Orleans in 1934, when I borrowed clubs and teamed up with Jack Harris, W. D. Hutchins, and Bob Cox in an A.O.C.S. tournament, without golf shoes but fortified by 'spiritus frumenti.' We finally staggered into the 18th green. I had 147 for a score, and the others declared me the winner but said they wouldn't play with me any more since I was a 'semi-pro.' Old-timers who attended spring meetings of the Society in the '30's will remember that I was always around taking pictures of the golfers."

WHEN MacGee returned to Kansas City from the Navy at the end of World War II his son Eddie was 14, ripe for a father-son attempt at golf. By the time Eddie was 16, his ball would sail right over MacGee's head. Incidentally, Eddie went on to play on the University of Kansas golf team before navy duty. In 1947 MacGee joined the Indian Hills Country Club, which "has a course too hard for me. It has never been my luck to play an easy course yet; everyone turns out to be hard for me. A highlight during these post-war years has been the customary foursome at A.O.C.S. spring meetings when Sam Sorensen, Dick Doughtie, Les Weber, and I team up."

By dint of loud arguments (he says) and some luck MacGee has managed to accumulate a lot of different prizes and a few trophies. The best he has managed in A.O.C.S. tournaments is to tie for second low gross, but he has done better in other tournaments, such as the Calcutta tournament at Indian Hills a few years ago. Recently he won the Reichhold trophy, an annual award from the Kansas City Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer Association. In 1959 he got "real hot" with a 76 over the rolling and tree-studded acres of the Swope Park course and won the President's Cup of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

It is hard to tell how best to identify MacGee, a member since 1931. Shall it be as the amiable and popular manager of the Industrial Division of the Skelly Oil Company? or as the energetic chairman of the Journal Advertising Committee? or as the ardent golfer? He seems to be a triple-threat man, piling up records in all his activities.

• *A.O.C.S. Commentary*

(Continued from page 4)

panions have died. Since the last business meeting we have been sorry to lose the following members:

Fred E. Blachly	Rozier D. Oilar
Leslie G. Boatright	Alan T. Osserman
M. G. Boulware	Edward Randa
John B. Calkin	R. H. Rogers Jr.
Edwin D. Coleman	Theodore Schwarz
George O. Daniel	Gustav F. Siemers
N. J. Gothard	August J. Spieler

and these three past presidents: Rex W. Perry, W. G. McLeod, and William A. Peterson.

A few of our long-time members received the honor of election by the Governing Board to the status of emeritus: J. T. R. Andrews, Harvey C. Bennett, Albert E. King, Lamar Kishlar, T. L. Rettger, and Procter Thomson.

Two respected members were elected, by the Governing Board and by a vote of the Society, to be honorary members, T. C. Law and A. S. Richardson.

AS A CONCLUSION, I wish to call attention to how improbable is the existence of the American Oil Chemists' Society. It is a professional society, and yet professors and research specialists do not hesitate to belong to a group that includes chemists that work in sales or purchasing departments. Production managers and proprietors of laboratories mingle with biochemists and engineers.

Our journal and our program chairmen welcome reports on chemical operations in 100-ton vats as well as in microgram cells. We are not, and do not need to be, subsidized by government or industry. Our common interests are the science and the technology of fatty materials. These interests continue to be strong and compatible, and, however improbable it was that our Society was organized, it now seems very probable that our Society will continue to flourish.

NORRIS D. EMBREE, Distillation Products Industries, Rochester, N.Y.

Production Rises

February production of fatty acids classified under Categories Nos. 1 to 12 totalled 40.8 million lbs., up 3.4 million lbs. from January and up 1.0 million lbs. from February 1959. Production of tall oil fatty acids, Category No. 13, was 6.6 million lbs. compared to 7.7 million lbs. in January.

Disposition of all fatty acids except Category No. 13 totalled 42.4 million lbs., compared to 41.2 million lbs. in January and 39.4 million lbs. in February 1959. For Category No. 13, disposition amounted to 4.9 million lbs. The total for all types now in the census was 47.2 million lbs. in February and 47.3 million lbs. in January.

Finished goods inventories for Categories Nos. 1 to 12 were 38.4 million lbs. on February 29 *versus* 37.9 million lbs. on January 13. Work-in-process stocks, as a total for all categories, was 21.2 million lbs., down 1.4 million lbs. from the end of January.