(The following verse found its way to AOCS Headquarters recently, and describes so aptly the daily frustrations in the quest for reasonable accuracy—to say nothing of perfection—that we are reprinting it here. We would welcome hearing from the author, in order to give credit where it is due.)

The Chromatographer's Lament

(Tune: My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean)

I've heard of chromatograph systems
That give separations so fine,
But the beautiful peaks in those pictures
Bear little resemblance to mine.

We bought a new phase for our column
With a high-temperature guarantee . . .
They said we could cook it forever,
But it conked out at 200C.

We coated it ever so slowly;
Conditioned with greatest of care . . .
But the baseline kept rising and rising
And our sample got lost way up there.

Now the oleate's in with the stearate,
And the peak shapes are slightly askew . . .
The flowrate just fell off to zero.
So I really don't think it will do.

We've avidly read all the journals,
Advice we have never refused . . .
But after you've plugged all that stainless,
It's hard to stay really enthused.

We've tried this thing over and over
And we feel that success must be near . . .
All we need are a few more good substrates
And a couple more bottles of beer.

CHORUS:

To-morrow, to-morrow,
We'll coat the new phase that they say is best . . .
But I'll still bet you
It'll bleed even worse than the rest.

(Author Unknown)

(Continued from page 333A)

groups with 4–10 C atoms in their alkyl portion; R_2 is a C_1 to C_8 alkyl group, and x and z are numbers in the range 5–25.

TOILET BAR. D. T. Hooker (Procter & Gamble Co.). *U.S. 3,312,626.* A solid toilet bar substantially free of anionic detergents and alkaline builders consists essentially of: (1) a base of high molecular weight, normally solid, polymeric nonionic detergent of which at least 70% by wt. is an oxyethylenic material such as propylene oxide-ethylenediamine-ethylene oxide condensates, propylene oxide-propylene glycol-ethylene oxide condensates, polymerized ethylene glycols and mixtures of the same; and (2) a nonionic lathering component such as amine oxide, phosphine oxide, dialkyl sulfoxide and mixtures of the same; where the base (1) represents 30–70% of the bar composition by wt. and the lathering component (2) is about 10–70% of the bar composition; the bar being firm at room temperature.

TOILET BAR. D. T. Hooker (Procter & Gamble Co.). *U.S. 3,312,627.* A solid toilet bar substantially free of anionic detergents and alkaline builders consists essentially of: (1) a base of high molecular weight, normally solid, polymeric nonionic detergent of which at least 70% by wt. is an oxyethylenic material such as propylene oxide-ethylenediamine-ethylene oxide condensates, propylene oxide-propylene glycol-ethylene oxide condensates, polymerized ethylene glycols and mixtures of the same; (2) a nonionic lathering component such as amine oxide, phosphine oxide, dialkyl sulfoxide, stearoyl N-methyl glucamide, polyethylene glycol tertdodecyl thioether and mixtures of the same; and (3) lithium soap of fatty acids containing from 12 to 18 C atoms. The base (1) ranges from 0 to about 70% of the bar composition by wt. the lathering component (2) from about 10% to about 70% and the lithium soap (3) from about 10% to about 80%; the bar being firm at room temperature.

PREPARATION OF BIODEGRADABLE SURFACTANTS. E. K. Jones (Universal Oil Products Co.). *U.S. 3,312,734.* An improvement is claimed in the process of producing alkylaryl detergent compounds, which comprises separating a straight-chain paraffin from a hydrocarbon mixture which contains it in admixture with branched chain isomers. The paraffin thus separated is then dehydrogenated to a straight chain monoolefin in contact with a non-acid dehydrogenation catalyst comprising a neutral oxide of an element of Group VI or a metal, sulfide or oxide of an element of Group VIII of the Periodic Table deposited on an inert support free of acidic ions at high temperatures and pressures in the presence of hydrogen.

FOAM—AN APPLICATIONAL PROBLEM. H. E. Tschakert (Huls A. G., Marl, Germany). *Tenside* 3, 388–94 (1966). The formation and break-down of foam, methods of determining foaming power, the practical utilization of foam characteristics of surface active agents and the biodegradability of surfactants are discussed. Part 3 of this paper, the last of the series, contains further examples of the practical utilization of foam characteristics of surfactants and discusses foaming problems associated with the biodegradation of surfactants.

THE USE OF MODERN SURFACTANTS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COSMETIC PREPARATIONS. F. Andreas and I. Franke (VEB Leuna Werk W. Ulbricht, Merseburg, Germany). *Tenside* 3, 419–23 (1966). Synthetic surfactants are being used increasingly besides conventional soaps in the manufacture of high quality cosmetic preparations. Compounds which are mild to the skin and easily biodegradable, e.g. condensation products of fatty acids and protein fatty acids, ethoxylated alcohols, semi-esters of sulfosuccinic acid, amine oxides, sugar esters and, above all, the fatty acid alkylolamides are the most important. Useful are also alkylbenzene sulfonates, alcohol sulfates, alkyl sulfonates and secondary alcohol sulfates, if they also contain a certain amount of fatty acid alkylolamides which are especially mild to the skin. The formulation of this type of cosmetic preparation is discussed, using a number of examples.

ETHYLENE OXIDE ADDUCTS OF TERTIARY ACETYLENIC ALCOHOLS. G. B. Carpenter, M. W. Leeds and R. J. Tedeschi (Cumberland Chemical Co.). *U.S. 3,293,191.* An aqueous composition is claimed, comprising water and an amount of an ethylene oxide adduct having the structural formula $H(OCH_2CH_2)_y OC(R_1)-(R_2)-C \equiv C-(R_3)(R_4)-CO(CH_2CH_2O)_xH$, in which R_1 and R_4 are alkyl radicals containing from 3 to 6 C atoms, R_2 and R_3 are selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl, x and y have a sum in the range of 3 to 20, inclusive, sufficient to substantially lower the surface tension and increase the wetting properties of the aqueous composition.