• *Industry Items*

UNIVERSAL OIL PRODUCTS CO., through its wholly-owned Mexican subsidiary, UOP Fragrances S.A. de C.V., has purchased the stock of Esencias, Fragancias y Productos Aromaticos, S.A., in Mexico.

The newly acquired company manufactures aroma chemicals and perfume compounds for sale to leading cosmetic and soap companies in Mexico. It will be operated as a unit of the worldwide UOP Fragrances group and is expected to give UOP a stronger market position in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

UOP is one of the world's leading suppliers of fragrance compounds, natural fragrance raw materials, aroma chemicals and flavors.

CRODA CHEMICALS LTD., London, announce that a new plant for the production of high grade Fatty Acids is now on stream at their Hull Plant. The plant has been erected under license from Lurgi of Frankfurt, based upon a patent held by Henkel & Company of Dusseldorf. The process separates liquid and solid fatty acid components from any given fatty acid mixture and uses the principle of hydrophilization. It is a considerable advance on the solvent crystallization techniques normally used for such separations because no solvent recovery is required and the low temperatures used throughout minimize any degradation of the fatty acids feedstock.

The process is briefly as follows. The fatty acid feedstock is cooled to a temperature about 10 C above its setting point and is fed through a heat exchanger to a six-stage Scraper Cooler. The temperature is reduced to between 5/10 C and a matrix of crystallized solid acids in a liquid acid medium is produced. This cooled mixture is treated with aqueous solution of a wetting agent plus an electrolyte to form a slurry which passes to a liquid/liquid centrifuge. The solid acids are selectively wetted and pass to the heavier aqueous phase which is separated by centrifuging from the liquid acids which form the lighter oil phase. The solid acid phase which still contains wetting agent is warmed to separate the fatty acids which are washed and vacuum dried. The wetting agent is processed and reused. The liquid acid stream is similarly washed and dried separately.

The separation is extremely efficient and over 90% extraction of the liquid acids present in the feedstock is possible. In addition the liquid acids produced are of high quality and cloud points of 32/33 F from tallow feedstocks may be obtained. The process can also be used for a wide range of separations including the up-grading of vegetable drying oils of all types.