

THE MEDALIST'S ADDRESS

MR. PRESIDENT, Mr. Toastmaster, Distinguished Guests, Members of the SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me first to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS for the high honor which it has conferred on me in presenting me with its coveted recognition—The Medal. It is at a time like this that one feels keenly his lack of the gift of eloquence to give expression to his true feelings. I must confess that I accept this honor with real humility, and do appreciate the expression of confidence it represents. Let me hasten to add that in reality I am sharing this honor with my colleagues and associates of the Division of Pharmacology of the Food and Drug Administration who have worked with me in the design of experimental procedures in skin pharmacology.

Unlike some of the former recipients of The Medal, I cannot claim research which has produced revolutionary developments in the cosmetic industry. Rather, the contributions of the skin pharmacologist are more apt to serve as a restraining influence in such developments, at least until problems of safety have been resolved.

There has been a growing awareness by the members of this SOCIETY as well as by the members of your sister organization—The Toilet Goods Association—that “safety for use” in a cosmetic is of paramount importance. A cosmetic, regardless of its elegance, effectiveness or attractiveness, will not survive long unless it is safe for the user.

My address tonight is entitled, “The Pharmacologist Delves in Cosmetics.”