

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS, The British Section

THE INAUGURAL MEETING of the British Section of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists was held on Thursday, Oct. 7, 1948, at 2:30 p. m., in the Meeting Hall of United Trade Press Ltd., 42-43, Gerrard Street, London, W.1. The Chairman, F. V. Wells, opened the proceedings by reading several letters from interested parties unable to attend the meeting. These greetings conveyed the good wishes of W. A. Poucher; William Westwood, B.Sc., A.R.I.C., who was unable to travel from Glasgow; Dennis Duveen, F.R.I.C., who had flown to America on the previous day; S. Crystal, one of the first British members of the Society; Dr. J. H. Seager, who on the day of the meeting was in France; and Ronald Demuth, who was unfortunately in a hospital. A cablegram from "Ed" deNavarre, one of the founders of the Society, conveyed to the Section his best wishes for its success and expansion.

### THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

"The gathering here today," Mr. Wells continued, "consists of members of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists, including its President, Dr. Walter Taylor; potential members of the Society; and various

other interested parties. It was never intended to be a comprehensive congregation of all those interested in the Society in this country, but rather as a representative cross section of British cosmetic chemists. In that respect you will doubtless consider that it admirably fulfills its purpose.

"The primary object of the meeting is to announce the formation of the British Section of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists. In addition, it is desired to give some sort of outline of the origin and development of the Society—to indicate its constitution, aims, and achievements—and to enlarge its membership in this country, among those who are duly qualified to belong to it.

"There are more than 200 members of the Society in the U.S.A. They include Dr. Walter Taylor, the President, whom we have the honor of welcoming here today; also men of the caliber of Dr. Marston T. Bogert, Dr. Dan Dahle (formerly F.D.A. Cosmetic Chief), Dr. Arthur Cade, M. G. deNavarre, Dr. Ernest Guenther, Lester Hoyt, Dr. John Killian, Dr. Emil Klarmann, Herbert Kranich, Marcel Suter, Dr. Everett McDonough, Raymond Reed, Edward Sagarin, Dr. Louis Schwarz, and Dr. Henry J. Wing.

"I have not, by the way, selected these names in any spirit of discrimination or partisanship, but only because most of the gentlemen concerned will be familiar to many of you here as writers of material that has proved useful and stimulating to you in your work. These names are merely typical of the general quality and caliber of the Society, which in this country, and on this occasion, can also boast of several distinguished members—who incidentally provide a strong nucleus for the newly formed British Section.

"I will leave to Dr. Taylor the task of referring to the general objects of the Society, but I cannot refrain at this stage from quoting some of the very pertinent observations of Dr. Klarmann, 1947 President of the Society, on the Qualifications of the Cosmetic Chemist:

"For the benefit of those who are not sufficiently aware of a cosmetic chemist's qualifications (Dr. Klarmann states) one might point out that, in the first place, he must have a good acquaintance with the several branches of chemistry, inorganic, organic, physical, colloidal, and analytical, since in his active work he deals continually with materials and procedures relating to these branches. In addition to this he must possess some knowledge of chemical engineering in order to be able to translate, or to assist in translating, the results of his laboratory efforts in terms of large-scale production. He must be on speaking terms with physics, e.g., in con-

nection with spectroscopy in the visible and ultra-violet regions, as well as in other chapters. He must be somewhat of a pharmacologist and toxicologist in order to form an intelligent conclusion as to the safety and efficacy of the materials considered as components of his formulations. He must have a smattering of dermatology in order to follow the discourses of this branch of a medical specialty, where they concern themselves with the effects of cosmetics and of their ingredients upon the skin.... A good cosmetic chemist has every reason to be proud of his profession by virtue of his training, his experience, his versatility, and his overall intelligence in applying himself to the multitudinous problems relating to his specialty. For the same reason it behooves him to be jealous of his professional standing'.

"The cosmetic chemist and the perfumer, as pointed out by Dr. Klarmann and others, not forgetting my good friend Dr. Sebastian Sabetay, Editor of *L'Industrie de la Parfumerie*, are engaged in work of a rather highly specialized scientific and technical character. And it is precisely because of this increasingly specialized outlook that they have come to require a common meeting ground and a common basis for the exchange and stimulation of ideas. The Society of Cosmetic Chemists is their own attempt to put the discussion of their professional and general technical problems on a sound and practical basis. A study of the by-laws readily re-

veals the fact that the Society keeps well within the scope of ethical professional practice and does not in any way attempt to usurp the functions of other professional or trade bodies. It has its own mission to fulfill and its own standards to maintain.

"Some emphasis should, I think, be placed on the fact that this link-up with the American body is definitely intended to be a free associa-



Dr. Walter Taylor, President, addressing the British Section in London.

tion of equals, and not a mere subordinated affiliation. The British Section will not be overshadowed by authority: it will preserve its own character and its own autonomy. This liberal attitude has been frequently stressed by our American associates, who wisely consider that the Section should make its own arrangements within the general framework of the Society, even to

the point, if and when desirable, of suggesting to the American group that the framework itself be modified. In other words, they are hoping that we shall become a really active part of the Society, running our own affairs and making our own arrangements regarding the payment of fees and all other internal matters.

"This freedom of action is, I feel, essential to the proper development of the British Section. We should not be forgetful, nevertheless, of the debt of gratitude that we owe to our American colleagues for all the really hard work that they have carried out in order to make such an easy start possible for us.

"The main purpose of this meeting is, as I have said, to announce the formation of the British Section. An important secondary purpose is to increase the membership. To that end a number of copies of the Society's JOURNAL, two or three copies of the by-laws, and a few dozen membership application forms are today available. In connection with these, and with all aspects of the Society's current membership, policy, and activities—questions will later be cordially invited from the body of the hall."

Mr. Wells then formally introduced Dr. Walter Taylor, the Society's President, to the meeting.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

"It is an honor and privilege," Dr. Taylor began, "to be present at the inaugural meeting of the British Section of the Society of Cosmetic

Chemists. I bring you greetings from the Society's officers, committeemen, and members overseas."

"Of all the basic professions," he continued, "that of Chemistry is one of the most far-reaching in its scope of fundamental knowledge and applications. Its pursuits are so extensive that within its boundaries one may hope only partially to master a particular specialty.

"A Chemist actively engaged in the Profession of Cosmetic Chemistry must have a background of fundamentals, related scientific subjects, and an understanding of associated sciences, including biochemistry, physiology, and dermatology. In addition to this, the Cosmetic Chemist must be capable of interpreting results in terms of economic success and do this in compliance with legal matters and national regulations wherever located. Furthermore, the usefulness, inter-reactions, effects and action of a host of individual materials and their various combinations must be well understood in order that efforts be directed with a view to creating commercial preparations of aesthetic significance.

"As in nearly all learned professions, the ability to master every aspect of the field either from the theoretical or practical standpoint can logically be considered impossible. Therefore, with the ever-increasing advancement of science and its applications, the individual finds he is ever more dependent upon professional colleagues, whether they are within the same

commercial organization or a part of the entire group that selected Cosmetic Chemistry as a profession.

"The era of pure artistry or self-sufficiency on the part of the Cosmetic Chemist is past. The professional status and recognition of the Cosmetic Chemist is a reality and we may improve upon his activity and standing by a free exchange of basic ideas and findings. The indispensable position and responsibility of the highly trained technical operative has become increasingly apparent to the cosmetic industry and its management.

"In contributing to the advancement of knowledge in our chosen field, the reliance upon established facts as discovered or established by others, acts as a basis for guidance and assistance to the individual, thus making him and our profession ever more successful.

"In order to further the advancement of cosmetic science, it is necessary, even mandatory, that a close relationship be established within the ranks of our profession. There must be groups wherein the exchange of information and discussion of controversial subjects may be given with the highest professional spirit and interest, groups composed of individuals (such as are present at this occasion) that are members because of their professional standing.

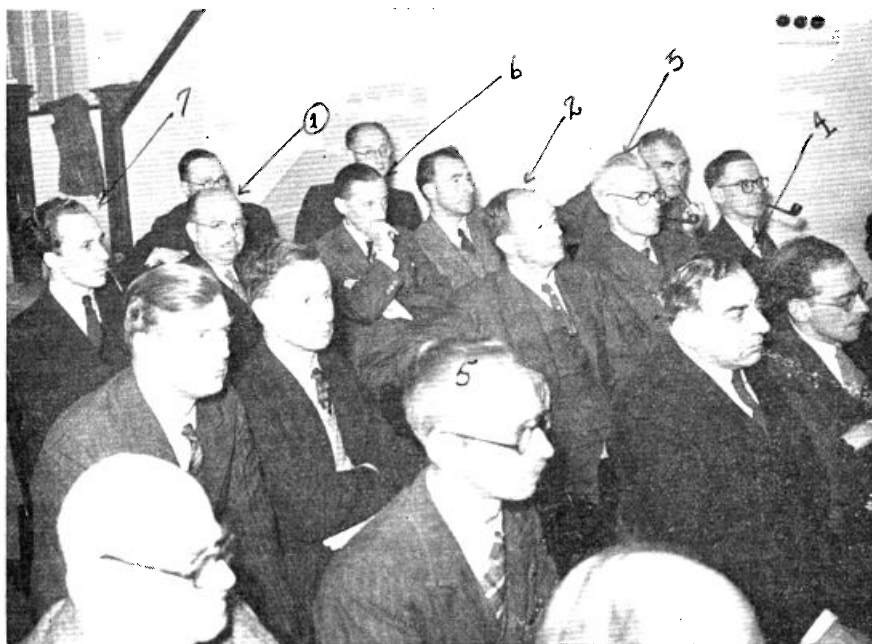
"Throughout the civilized world, where the growth of the cosmetic industry has made tremendous strides during the past twenty-five years, the professional needs of the

cosmetic chemist could not be fulfilled by fraternal or trade associations to which he might be admitted. The realization of that fact led to the planning, the organization, and the final formation of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists.

"Dating back to the original an-

Society contributes an invaluable addition to the sum of total knowledge and also creates a greater interest in scientific matters among individual members.

"Our organization is still young, but the size of its membership indicates its vigor and enthusiasm.



Listening to Dr. Taylor's address are: Ralph G. Harry (1), Phillip Fowler (2), W. P. Pepper (3), C. L. Gardell (4), Dr. H. K. Dean (5), H. Holmes (6), W. G. Norris (7).

nouncement of the organization of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists, interest has been clearly evidenced by personal inquiries from cosmetic chemists from all parts of the world. The high caliber of the papers presented at every meeting of the Society has caused very favorable comments throughout the whole cosmetic industry.

"It is generally agreed that the

"The progress of the Society has been brought about not only by the ceaseless and devoted efforts of the officers and committeemen, but also by the wholehearted support of the general membership.

"I welcome the entrance of the British Section into the Society of Cosmetic Chemists and extend the most cordial wishes for a successful professional future."

## PAPER BY FRANK ATKINS

There being no questions at this stage, the Chairman invited Frank Atkins, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., a member of the Society, to address the meeting on a prearranged subject. Mr. Atkins accordingly gave an interesting and largely impromptu talk on the subject of the Analysis of Face Powders, with special reference to Talc. His observations were fundamentally a critical commentary on the methods published by the American Association of Official Agricultural Chemists; in this respect they brought up to date his previous comments, published in *S.P.C.*, July, 1943. Of special interest was his additional suggestion for the high and low temperature determination of talc, in the presence of kaolin and titanium dioxide.

A. G. Willsmer, member, suggested the use of an elutriation method for the separate determination of talc, kaolin, etc. This suggestion aroused considerable interest, though it was doubted whether the degree of accuracy obtainable by such a method would justify the time spent on it.

Dr. S. Gottfried, member, recommended the consideration of tetrahydrofurfuryl ethers as solvents for metal stearates.

Other questions and suggestions came from Dr. H. W. Hibbott, W. P. Pepper, M.Sc., and J. Pickthall.

A proposal from H. W. Avis was then put to the meeting, to the effect that a subcommittee should later be formed to draw up minimum standards for cosmetic raw mate-

rials. While this appeared to meet with general approval, no further action was taken at this stage.

## PAPER BY JOHN KILLIAN

The meeting's dominant feature of cordial Anglo-American co-operation was further evidenced by the fact that the other paper read on this occasion, in addition to Mr. Atkins' stimulating contribution, was a long and detailed account by John A. Killian and Trinita Rivera, entitled "Experimental Studies of the Transcutaneous Absorption Vitamin A."

This paper was read by Dr. Walter Taylor, to whom the typescript had been delivered posthaste, just before his plane was due to leave the LaGuardia Airfield. It was illustrated by several lantern slides. (Unfortunately the American slides were somewhat of a misfit in the British projector, but this difficulty was partially overcome by expert manipulation on the part of R. Hicks and Dr. H. K. Dean.)

The complete text of this paper by Drs. Killian and Rivera will first be published in *THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS*, thus following accepted practice in regard to papers presented at the Society's meetings. (Appears elsewhere in this issue. *Ed.*)

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Drs. Killian, Rivera, and Taylor. The Chairman had previously acquainted those present with Dr. Killian's academic record as B.A., M.A., Ph.D., instructor in analytical chemistry at Fordham,

and professor of biochemistry at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School; and with his further work as a consulting biochemist and author of various publications.

At this stage the meeting was adjourned for tea and general off-the-record discussion.

Chairman, until such time as the Section should decide on the proper election of officers and committees. He asked, therefore, whether some definite proposal relative to the formation of appropriate committees could be made by one of the members in the body of the hall.



Dr. Hibbott (1) and Dr. Saalfeld (2) chatting during tea.

#### COMMITTEES FORMED

After the tea interval, the Chairman explained in some detail that, at a private meeting held prior to the general meeting, the British members of the Society had unanimously agreed to form a separate but closely associated British Section. He himself had been asked to act in a temporary capacity as

The most essential steps appeared, to him, to be the formation, firstly, of a General Committee—or Arrangements Committee, as the American Society would call it—to attend to the various details of formation, fees, subsequent meetings, and so forth; and, secondly, a Membership Selection Committee, to examine and accept, or reject,

applications for membership. Apart from this general guidance, however, he felt that it was incumbent upon the various members of the Society to put forward their own proposals.

Ralph G. Harry moved that a committee be formed to consider applications for membership. This was seconded by Edmond Polan and carried unanimously. The following members were accordingly elected to the Membership Selection Committee: Ralph G. Harry; Frank Atkins; Dr. A. W. Middleton; Drs. H. W. Hibbott and J. Bather, co-opted members.

The co-opted members were elected from the body of the meeting, with a view to giving the Committee the broadest possible basis for dealing with incoming applications.

Following the unanimous carrying of a motion proposed by H. W. Avis and seconded by Dr. S. Gottfried, to the effect that an Arrangements Committee be formed, the following were elected to serve on this Committee: F. V. Wells, E. Polan, and Dr. A. W. Middleton.

No other nominations were proposed. It was suggested by Dr. Taylor, and agreed upon by the meeting, that Dr. Middleton could usefully act as a liaison between the two committees.

Subsequently Mr. Wells was asked by the meeting to continue acting as Chairman until such time as proper elections should take place. The proposal that a time limit be set on the activities of the

present committees was put forward by Frank Atkins and heartily welcomed by all concerned. It was then decided that the members of the committees should give a full account of their activities to a general meeting within six months and that they should offer themselves for re-election at the end of that period.

It was further agreed that the initial subscription fee payable by members of the British Section should be two guineas.

The Chairman, in reply to questions from Dr. Hibbott and others, asked the meeting to suggest a temporary address for the Society in this country. At the suggestion of Frank Atkins, and with the approval of those present, he agreed that all applications for membership and other correspondence intended for the Society should, for the present, continue to be addressed to him, c/o United Trade Press Ltd., 24, Bride Lane, London, E.C.4.

A warm vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Walter Taylor, for his extreme kindness and courtesy in coming so far to explain the aims and objects of the Society and to assist in furthering its development in this country. E. S. Maurer, toward the end of the proceedings, proposed a vote of thanks to the proprietors and staff of United Trade Press Ltd., publishers of *Soap, Perfumery & Cosmetics*, for their helpfulness in providing a meeting hall and for the hospitality extended to all those present. The meeting then terminated.