

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS

THE ANNUAL DINNER DANCE was held on January 18th at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London.

Sir Eric Rideal, M.B.E., F.R.S., Chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development to the Minister of Supply and President of the forthcoming Second International Congress of Surface Activity, was guest of Honor. Other guests included T. G. Hendy, chairman of the Toilet Preparations Federation, Trat Mikkelsen, founder member of the Danish Society of Cosmetic Chemists and the five candidates for the Society's Diploma which allowed them to enter the Society as Associate Members.

The third winter meeting was addressed by Dr. J. H. Schulman, O.B.E., Reader in Surface Chemistry at the University of Cambridge, on the subject of "The Behavior of Proteins at Interfaces." The study presented the phenomena observed when dilute solutions of proteins are injected below monolayers formed by lipids, such as detergents on a water surface in a modified Langmuir trough. The lecture provided information of great import to the cosmetic chemists.

Dr. H. W. Hibbott, A.R.I.C., gave the fourth lecture on the subject of "Particle Size in Powders." The powdered materials supplied to the cosmetic industry were shown to have their characteristic ranges of particle size, and grinding before use was designed to break up agglomerates of fine particles; in other words, to mix rather than to grind. The important effects of aggregation were demonstrated by experiments in which a suspension of fine chalk in water separated much more rapidly than a suspension in alcohol and conversely a suspension of titanium dioxide in alcohol separated in a few minutes as compared with several days for a suspension in water. The application of Stokes Law to these cases would lead to conflicting testimony. In case of conflict the lowest value offered is accepted as the most probable. In the light of such experiments the methods of measurement of particle size and of separation were very critically examined by Dr. Hibbott.

At the fifth meeting held at the Royal Society of Arts, I. Greenfield, B.Sc., A.R.I.C., gave a well-illustrated lecture on "Polyvinylpyrrolidone, Its Manufacture, Properties and Use in Cosmetics." The organic chemist had presented us with an exceptional achievement in converting the unpromising raw materials limestone, coke, water and air into a substance



Sir Eric Rideal, M.B.E., F.R.S., being received by President R. H. Dobson and Mrs. Dobson at the Annual Dinner Dance.

which was employed during the Second World War as a replacement fluid for natural human blood. The chemical engineer had followed with the notable feat of putting a difficult synthesis upon a commercial basis and thus making polyvinylpyrrolidone available for industries which could find employment for it. Mr. Greenfield gave interesting details of these developments. He also deprecated extravagant claims for PVP. Some of its applications had become established; others he mentioned, were commended as worthy of careful examination by the cosmetic chemist.

Members and Guests at the Annual Dinner
Dance, January 18th, London. →

