

PAUL G. I. LAUFFER, MAN AND SCIENTIST

EULOGY BY H. D. GOULDEN*

I AM to tell you something about Paul Lauffer, Scientist. It is not my intention to discuss in detail or to enumerate his many contributions to scientific literature but to cite instances and examples which, I believe, will interest you and indicate in some measure why he is so esteemed by his colleagues. I shall be brief, because I am under admonition from our honored guest to keep this brief, the briefer the better.

Twenty years ago, shortly after I came to The Toilet Goods Association, your toastmaster introduced me to Paul during luncheon. I became thoroughly convinced that here was one of the great minds, a true scientist. Quite naturally, I cultivated his acquaintance. He has been friend and counselor, and, since he has always had the industry point of view, a much appreciated ally.

Whenever in the course of my activities it becomes necessary to form a committee for any purpose, I always try to place Paul on the committee. Why? Because he will sit quietly listening to what all the other members of the committee have said; when I ask for his opinion, there is complete silence, and then he will in a few well-chosen sentences summarize all the facts developed, the conclusions to be drawn and the indicated actions, if any. Invariably he is right, and all agree. I doubt very much that Paul is aware of this situation; however, I have seen it happen time and time again. Committees of which he is a member frequently tell me they feel they accomplished something and acknowledge that it was largely through Paul's efforts that they did. He is truly a scientist's scientist.

During the war years, while Paul was at the George W. Luft Co., he was involved in making gas detection kits for the government. As you all know, the purpose of these kits was to detect extremely small concentrations of poisonous gases in the atmosphere. The chemicals used for this purpose were quite sensitive and often would detect traces of other chemically similar substances; hence, misleading conclusions would often result. Paul, I am informed by those who worked with him, devised tests for identifying these contaminants and methods for eliminating these unwanted reactions during production. I understand that his co-workers were dumbfounded at the speed with which this problem was solved. The

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production problems which arose were many and complicated enough to rattle ordinary men, but not Paul. This ability to remain calm and objective under all circumstances is characteristic of Paul and most frequently mentioned by his many admirers. I can tell you, because I visited him at his plant, that he is not only a great "theoretical" scientist but a very practical one too, for that production line for turning out those gas tester kits was as sweet and ingenious a job as I have ever seen, and I have seen many.

In the laboratory, Paul is engrossed in the task at hand, so much so that he may not speak more than two or three words to the man alongside of him. I am told that on one occasion a rather talkative chemist, who was working in the same laboratory with our honored guest, became rather annoyed with this habit and decided not to talk to Paul at all. After a month of this treatment, the talkative one had to break the silence and admit that this was concentration the like of which he had never seen. Paul was completely unaware of what had been going on. When he is concentrating on a problem, he is oblivious of everything about him.

Paul is an avid reader of all scientific literature. He amazes all of us. We can't understand where he gets the time to do it—but he does. A former co-worker, and most of these refer to themselves as his students, informed me that Paul has, since his early days in the industry, kept chronological abstracts of scientific data pertaining to cosmetic science and related fields. It didn't take these co-workers long to discover that when assigned a new research problem, or when in need of up-to-date information on a cosmetic problem, the initial action was a search of Paul's files, and frequently one did not need to go further.

I wonder how many of you know that Paul, since receiving his doctor's degree, has devoted his life to the cosmetic industry. He has taken an active interest in the industry, not confining his activities to the particular company by whom he may have been employed. Organizing the first scientific organization in the domestic cosmetic industry was quite a task. Paul was of very great help to me, chiefly by encouraging me to keep at it and backing me up when needed. That was back in the days when *your* chemist, if seen talking with *my* chemist, would result in both being fired. Paul, I guess that more or less reveals how old we are, and I'm sorry—but don't you forget that I'm eleven days your senior and shall expect the respect and deference due your senior in years. His scientific contributions to the literature are many and cover a wide range of subjects, including amine soaps, emulsions, odor and olfaction, acridine, lipsticks, chapters on cosmetics in books and encyclopedias. His annual literature review under the title "Some New Keys to Cosmetic Chemistry" is most often cited as a major contribution by cosmetic chemists here and abroad. I do not need to tell you that cosmetic scientists face the almost impossible

task of keeping up with the various scientific disciplines which impinge on cosmetic technology. Paul's excellent reviews have annually brought a beautiful condensation of this literature. This has been of immeasurable benefit to all of us and, together with his other writings, must exert a tremendous influence on the young men who come into this very complex field of cosmetic science.

"Some New Keys to Cosmetic Chemistry—1962" is now in press. Let me quote the eleven printed lines which Paul uses to describe this major contribution: "As in previous years, a condensed summary has been prepared setting forth the past year's yield of new data, hypotheses, and concepts which appear to bear unusual interest for the cosmetic chemist. The reports have been selected from periodicals serving a wide variety of scientific and technological areas, and the emphasis has been on basic investigations, rather than upon new applications of old data. No attempt has been made to present a comprehensive treatment of any of the topics included in this summary. Material has been selected on the basis of its adjudged potential for changing the concepts or practices of the cosmetic chemist." This, ladies and gentlemen, is the author's modest description of a 15-page major contribution covering 322 articles in the scientific literature!

I trust that you will pardon a more detailed discussion of this contribution, especially since I am the editor of the "Proceedings" in which it appears. However, since it is gratefully and so well received throughout the world, such a discussion is in order, especially since it will reveal the many scientific disciplines in which our Medalist is interested. The subjects covered are: composition of the skin; metabolism of skin; keratinization; effect of chemicals on skin; hair and nails; sweat; sebum; ultrastructure of cells; metabolism of cells; mechanisms of the synthesis of proteins; structure of proteins; binding of proteins; structure and composition of collagen and elastin; collagen synthesis and fibrogenesis; effect of chemicals on collagen and elastin; structure and composition, formation and function of connective tissue; enzymes; permeability of skin; mechanism of permeability; effects of chemicals on permeability; antibodies and allergy; inflammation; germicides; pigmentation; aging of skin; effect of chemicals on aging skin; biosynthesis of cholesterol; structure and activity; gels; emulsions, etc. Our Medalist states, "During the past year, the literature of chemistry and allied disciplines has presented a galaxy of stimulating and useful new ideas," and concludes with this gross understatement, "A few of them have been presented here for their possible value to fellow cosmetic chemists."

In discussing Paul's contributions to the scientific literature, I would indeed be remiss if I did not mention his several contributions in the field of olfaction. He has made many contributions to this field that have

stimulated others to experimentation that has resulted in major advances in our knowledge of the mechanism of olfaction. Recently, when I was introduced to a European authority in this field, he said, "Oh yes, you're an American, aren't you? Do you know Dr. Lauffer?" and then he mentioned various articles Paul had written. He assured me he was very well thought of by others in olfaction. Paul is, heart and soul, a cosmetic chemist. He has always had the industry point of view. In my capacity as Scientific Director of T.G.A., I have called on Paul repeatedly during the past twenty years. His work on our Scientific Advisory Committee in developing raw material standards has been outstanding. He has been a very able chairman of our Scientific Section and, has on many occasions, presented erudite papers such as: Odor and Olfaction; The Sphere of Research; Olfaction and Cholinesterase, etc. He has appeared before Committees of Congress to present an industry point of view, and he has done so ably and effectively. He ably represented the cosmetic industry at the hearings on an order by F.D.A., seeking to delist certain certified colors of great importance to the industry. During this "show," which went on for days, he remained objective and effective and, wonder of wonders, really impressed the attorneys. He serves as a member of our Color Additives Scientific Advisory Committee which has done such a tremendous job, one not fully appreciated, for the entire cosmetic industry. The cosmetic industry may be particularly proud of the job done by Paul and his fellow committee members. It warms the cockles of my heart, and I am proud of them and of this industry effort. You are well aware that the industry is sponsoring the pharmacological evaluation of some 25 certified colors. Paul is one of four who periodically review, with me, the data developed. I value greatly his counsel and advice.

Paul Lauffer is more than just a dedicated scientist working in our industry. Morally and ethically, he has the respect of his many friends. No man, during the thirty years I have been in this industry, is more highly regarded and esteemed by his colleagues than is Paul. No greater praise can there be. For thirty-five years he has been contributing to cosmetic science, serving the SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS and T.G.A. Paul has always been an excellent, thorough and capable researcher. The cosmetic industry needs more men like Paul, "who avoid the spectacular and promotional and who constantly add to the fundamental basic knowledge on which the industry should be based." The SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS is to be congratulated for selecting Paul Lauffer as the recipient of its medal. A more popular decision could not have been made. Paul, may we offer our sincerest congratulations.