

## THE FIRST HONORARY MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION

ON DECEMBER 6, 1946, the Society made its first honorary membership presentation to Dr. Dan Dahle after a banquet held in his honor at the Savoy Plaza Hotel in New York City. Presiding at the ceremony was Maison G. deNavarre, first President of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists. Mr. deNavarre's comments on qualifications for honorary membership and his address leading to the presentation follow.

"Many of you are not familiar with Honorary Membership in the Society of Cosmetic Chemists—who selects the recipient and why the honor is given. The constitution of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists describes it concisely. I quote from Article II, Section 3:

'Honorary Membership—Upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the Society shall have the power, by a majority vote of the members thereof, to admit such persons to honorary membership in the Society as may be deemed worthy.'

"You can see the award is not confined by any specific achievement, but by the accrual of many worthy contributions, no matter how long the lapse of time.

"Tonight, we have a short program in which we hope to uncover to you some of the character, ideals,

scientific skill, intellectual ability, as well as the capacity for leadership of Dr. Dan Dahle, our honored guest. We honor and commend him for utilizing his talents in the interest of the consumer and the cosmetic industry.

"It is a complete surprise to Dr. Dahle to see one of his own colleagues here at the table tonight. They have worked together for a number of years. I hope it is not indiscreet to say that they probably have socialized together too. It is with pleasure that I introduce to you a man who has been with the Food and Drug Administration for about fourteen years, serving at Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, and, finally at Washington, as Dr. Dahle's first assistant. Today, the gentleman I refer to is assistant director of control of the Winthrop Chemical Company, Inc. He made a special trip from Rensselaer to do honor to his former boss. Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, Irwin Shupe, who will address you on the subject Dan Dahle, Co-Worker. Mr. Shupe. . . ."

Mr. Shupe spoke from a few notes made hurriedly en route to New York City, describing his own pleasant experiences while working with Dr. Dahle in Washington. Numerous anecdotes illustrated the kind of scientist, co-worker, and man Mr. Shupe found in Dr. Dahle. Mr. Shupe summarized his account of Dr. Dahle as co-worker by stressing

his unselfishness in the interest of his staff.

Mr. deNavarre then delivered his

address, "Dan Dahle, the Scientist, the Regulatory Official and the Man."

## DAN DAHLE, THE SCIENTIST, THE REGULATORY OFFICIAL AND THE MAN

By MAISON G. DENAVARRE

WHEN THE Society of Cosmetic Chemists was formed in May, 1945, it resolved to have two kinds of membership, active and honorary. Within a year after adoption of its constitution, the Society unanimously chose one individual on whom it wanted to confer its first honor. One man stood out as most deserving. That man was Dr. Dan Dahle, then Chief of the Food and Drug Administration, Cosmetic Division.

It is significant that a regulatory official was chosen to receive the honor because of the natural apathy everyone has for regulators of any kind. Even so, everyone knew that the man with the twinkling eyes, and the brush-like haircut, whose English had an occasional Swedish accent, had discharged his job with fidelity—an ungrateful job at best, for few people like a policeman—and Dan Dahle was a policeman. The kind of policeman who knows that there is a spirit as well as a letter to the law. The kind of policeman who says to you—"Think, deep in your heart—you know you can't do that!" If that didn't hold you, he would shrug

his shoulders and say, "In the opinion of the F.D.A. . . ."

It is difficult and probably impossible to distinguish between Dan Dahle, the scientist, regulatory official, and the man. The same qualities of imagination, enthusiasm, justice, thoroughness, and friendliness which contributed to his success as scientist and regulatory officer likewise characterized him as a man. It was my privilege to know him in all three capacities.

Dan Dahle was born in Sweden; part of his education was received at Gothenburg, and his postgraduate work at the American University in Washington, D. C. He joined the Food and Drug Administration in 1928 and was stationed at Savannah. It was shortly before that, while he was assistant state chemist of Florida, that he met a young lady who became Mrs. Dahle. Then the Food and Drug Act of 1938 was passed and Walter Campbell, in looking around for a man to head up the newly created cosmetic division, chose Dan Dahle to be the Acting Chief. He was Acting Chief from 1939 to 1943, after which he became Chief of the Cosmetic Division. At

first there were only three men in the division; eventually it grew to about a dozen.

When Dan Dahle settled down to work as Acting Chief, he had to start from the beginning. He and his division had to devise regulations interpreting the cosmetic sections of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; he had to establish tolerances for dangerous substances used in cosmetics as well as directions for their use. Methods of identifying and quantitatively determining the countless ingredients in scores of cosmetic products had to be developed. Most of us, in a much smaller way, have experienced exactly the same frustrations, so we know the magnitude of his labors.

Yet another superhuman task awaited Dan Dahle. The certification of colors (to be used in foods, drugs, and cosmetics) was assigned to his Division. That started a series of hearings between cosmetic and color manufacturers and dealers with the Cosmetic Division. Standards of purity were tediously devised, to the satisfaction of all. Today, the whole civilized world respects these standards. No one within the jurisdiction of the United States would think of using a non-certified color. Woe unto him who does.

Dan Dahle's success in completing the work on certification of colors would have been delayed much if he didn't have the full cooperation of manufacturers and dealers. And he is quite aware of it too. One need only to mention

colors to hear a flow of glowing praises for the color men like Bainbridge, Thomasette, Vesce, Nantz, and others.

In spite of its overburdened program, the Cosmetic Division found time to publish technical papers on subjects ranging from methods of identifying antiperspirants to the composition of waving preparations. These technical articles rarely carried Dan Dahle's name. In fact, he insisted that his laboratory assistants do original work, and also that they had to publish it under their names only. Often he had to act as English and composition master to make inarticulate



Dr. Dan Dahle delivering his acceptance of honorary membership

chemists write what they meant. In fact, he was so concerned about his assistants' articulation that he wrote a thesis on grammar and clarity of expression in his series

"Colors and Cosmetics" for use by all regulatory men. So, there is comparatively little published work under Dan Dahle's name. Nor has he published a book. But if all the work he fostered and directed were put together, it would be more than one book. His assistants were so well tutored that industry has taken several of his best men, one being here tonight to do homage to his former "boss."

backed by a trio who were in W.P.B. to win the war first and to disrupt civilian industry as little as possible. The trio consisted of Dahle, Williams, and Pacini.

Then tempered thinking followed. After some eight months—very critical months if you remember—Dr. Dahle went back to the F.D.A. to continue regulatory work, only after he had left his stamp on the pattern of the Cosmetic Section of W.P.B.



(Left to right) Maison G. deNavarre, Dan Dahle, and Emil Klarman pose after the ceremony

When the war broke out, the nation's very life was at stake. Some thought cosmetics should be completely done away with during the early days of the War Production Board. All the cosmetic industry wanted was what was left after the war effort had been satisfied. The industry felt that if it was ingenious enough to carry on without essential ingredients, then it should be allowed to do so. That was radical thinking. But it was

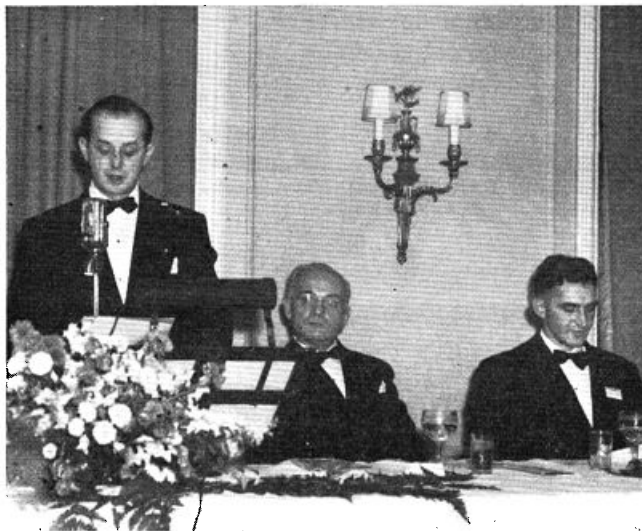
If never before, the cosmetic industry now realized that it had a champion for its cause when it was right.

During the entire term as Chief of the Cosmetic Division, the cosmetic industry gave him complete co-operation. Confidence was mutual. One could almost see Steve Mayham's footprints in the Department of Agriculture Building corridors leading to Room 2163, and later to Room 4807. Steve was

there often, working out points of friction between the industry and the Cosmetic Division. That is the way it should always be and that is the way it was.

To show how complete was the industry's co-operation, let me cite that during his term as Acting Chief and Chief of the Cosmetic Division, there resulted in that eight years

sense of humor. After leaving the office at night, he, like many of us, would stop to get some groceries and a newspaper. Then the bus away from the *Washington Merry-Go-Round* to Takoma Park and home. After dinner, he would most likely be found in the basement at woodworking. Like all of his countrymen, Dan Dahle could also



Past-President deNavarre describing Dan Dahle, the scientist, the regulatory official, and the man. Seated (left to right) E. G. Klarmann and Irwin Shupe

some 175 legal actions, about 100 of them occurring during the first two years. One quarter of these actions came under the "drug provision" of the Act. That is something to be proud of.

One would think that after his harrowing days as a regulatory official, Dan Dahle would be a bundle of nerves. Nothing was further from the truth; he always had a

make things with his hands. There was plenty of yard to keep trim too, but apparently not enough to shape him up for golf. According to his own words, he plays Civil War golf, which means that he rarely breaks a hundred, and likely as not, goes a wee bit over.

A few months ago, a leading manufacturer convinced Dan Dahle that he could fulfill more of his

scientific ambitions and, at the same time, render service to mankind by becoming Director of Research at the Hillside Plant of the Bristol-Myers Company. It is coincidental that the honor we are to bestow on him tonight should follow simultaneously the recognition of his ability by a leading cosmetic manufacturer.

Summarizing some of the published scientific achievements of Dan Dahle's Cosmetic Division, I mention only a few of the titles of published articles:

Report on Facial Preparations  
Separation and Estimation of Mercury, Bismuth, and Zinc in "Skin Bleaches"  
Determination of Sulfides in Depilatories  
Modified Kreis Test Applicable to Cosmetic Preparations  
Volumetric Determination of Alkanolamines in Emulsions  
Detection and Determination of Mono- and Diethanolamines  
Use of Xanthates in Identification of Alcohols  
Identification of Some Amine Emulsifiers  
Report on Hair Dyes and Rinses  
Determination of Glycerol, Ethylene Glycol, Propylene Glycol  
Report on Mascaras, Eyebrow Pencils, and Eye Shadows  
Report on Colored Make-Up Preparations  
Report on Cosmetic Vanishing Creams

Identification of Thioglycolic Acid  
The Determination of Thioglycolates in Depilatories  
Report on Hair Preparations  
Determination of Glycerol in Vanishing Creams

Notwithstanding all this, the published and unpublished scientific work pertaining to colors, their impurities, and methods of identification and estimation, is so vast that it would take an encyclopedia to include it all.

And so, Dr. Dan Dahle, distinguished regulatory official, talented scientist, and gentleman—for administering your office with scientific precision, honesty, forthrightness, understanding, and fairness—fairness to both the consumer whom you were sworn to safeguard and the manufacturer, who came to you for help and advice—on behalf of the membership of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists, I award you the Society's first Honorary Membership. While this award is given in recognition of past achievement, it is the confident expectation that your future in the cosmetic industry will fulfill its promise and bring pride to the Society which honors you tonight. Now, Dr. Dahle, I want to add my personal wishes to those of every member and guest, that your years to come be many, happy, and successful.