



The American Chemical Society

The American Chemical Society, the world's largest body devoted to a single science, seeks to encourage in the broadest and most liberal manner the advancement of chemistry in all its branches, the promotion of research in chemical science and industry, the improvement of the qualifications and usefulness of chemists through high standards of professional ethics, education, and attainments, the increase and diffusion of chemical knowledge, and, by its meetings, professional contacts, reports, papers, discussions, and publications, to promote scientific interests and inquiry, thereby fostering public welfare and education, aiding the development of our country's industries, and adding to the material prosperity and happiness of our people.

The Society had its beginnings in New York City on April 20, 1876, when a group of 35 chemists banded together, organized, and elected officers. It was incorporated in New York State on May 9, 1877, and was reorganized on a national basis in 1891. Its standing and importance were recognized by an Act of Congress effective January 1, 1938, under which it was granted a Federal charter on January 7, 1938.

Membership in the Society is divided into the following classes: senior grade, junior grade, life, emeritus, honorary, and corporation. Members in all classifications enjoy the full privileges of the Society except that corporation and junior-grade members may not hold office. The chief administrative officers include the president, president-elect, chairman of the Board of Directors, executive secretary, and treasurer. The present officers are: Charles A. Thomas, president; Linus Pauling, president-elect; Roger Adams, chairman of the Board; Alden H. Emery, executive secretary; and Robert V. Mellefont, treasurer.

Early in 1941 the Society purchased as national headquarters a 5-story and basement building at 1155 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., which now houses the offices of the secretary and treasurer and the main editorial offices of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, *Analytical Chemistry*, and *Chemical*

and Engineering News. From its modest beginning, the Society has now grown to a membership of approximately 58,000.

The Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Society and consists of the president, president-elect, most recent past-president, 6 regional directors, and 4 directors-at-large chosen specifically for their business experience and ability. The popular deliberative assembly of the Society is the Council, composed of the president, president-elect, past-presidents, executive secretary, treasurer, directors, editors of each journal published by the Society, two councilors from each division, and at least one councilor from each local section and more in proportion to the section's membership.

The Society has 18 divisions, which are professional groups organized from among its membership to stimulate and develop the growth of the special activity assigned to them. The Society also has 127 sections scattered throughout the country. These sections are given territory with headquarters where members may be reasonably expected to attend meetings held at stated times from September until June.

Much of the business of the Society is conducted through committees. The Council has two highly important committees—the Council Policy Committee and the Committee on Nominations and Elections—and the following standing committees: Committee on Membership Affairs, Committee on National Meetings and Divisional Activities, Committee on Local Sectional Activities, Committee on Professional Relations and Status, Committee on Publications, Committee on Education, and Committee on Constitution and By-laws. Other committees, such as the Committee on Professional Training, Membership Committee, Committee on Nomenclature, Spelling, and Pronunciation, and the various awards committees, are appointed as occasion demands and are responsible for carrying out some part of the Society's program. Still other committees have to do with technical problems.

The Society conducts a broad and far-reaching program, the most important part of which is the dissemination

nation of scientific data through its publications. The Society owns, edits, and publishes 5 journals—*Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, *Analytical Chemistry*, and *Chemical and Engineering News*, the last three mentioned having branch editorial offices in Chicago, Houston, New York, and San Francisco. Prior to each national meeting, through its ACS News Service, the Society prepares a book of abstracts of all papers to be presented at that meeting. The Society also has editorial responsibility for the Monographs of the ACS, published by the Reinhold Publishing Corporation and edited by W. A. Hamor, Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One hundred and six of these monographs have been issued, as well as various revised editions, and many more are in preparation.

The *Journal of Physical and Colloid Chemistry* is published 9 times a year under the auspices of the American Chemical Society and the Faraday Society. *Chemical Reviews*, issued bimonthly, is owned and edited by the Society and published by the Williams and Wilkins Company. The *Journal of Chemical Education* is the official organ of the Society's Divisions of Chemical Education and the History of Chemistry. The quarterly journal, *Rubber Chemistry and Technology*, is owned, edited, and published by the Society's Division of Rubber Chemistry. Many of its local sections sponsor publications.

The American Chemical Society administers 9 awards in recognition of outstanding services to chemistry. The Society itself finances and awards the Priestley Medal, the greatest honor that can be bestowed in American chemistry. The local sections administer 9 awards.

The News Service, of which Walter J. Murphy is director, serves as a clearing house of chemical information for the press, science writers, columnists, and radio commentators. It gathers material from individuals, local sections, divisions, and Society officers, rewrites it for use by newspapers, press associations, syndicates, radio broadcasting companies, and technical publications, and disseminates it both here and abroad.

About 18 months ago the News Service extended its activities by the establishment of a radio department which inaugurated weekly broadcasts—now a permanent feature—on chemical science and technology, known as Headlines in Chemistry. This service has greatly extended itself through the local

sections, which it assists in planning and preparing radio programs throughout the country.

The Society has a diversified meeting program, foremost on it being two national meetings annually. These afford an unparalleled opportunity for chemists and chemical engineers to get together from all over the country and foreign countries as well, exchange views, broaden friendships, and acquire information over a wide field of chemistry. At these meetings scientific papers amounting to many hundreds are presented in one week. Group meals, committee and special group meetings, "lobby sessions," all afford excellent opportunity for people with similar interests to get together. Some of the divisions hold annual meetings or biennial symposia between national meetings, and often regional meetings are held in various sections of the country. The latter are small national meetings in general plan and provide an opportunity to get together for people who for some reason cannot attend the national meetings. Each has its own special advantages.

The Society, since the spring meeting in 1937, has operated an Employment Clearing House at each national meeting. This service is open to chemists registered and in attendance at the meeting and, at the request of employers, arranges interviews between them and candidates for employment. In 1947 the Clearing House served 1,650 employers' representatives and 1,450 candidates for employment. In order that the service may operate on a continuous basis, regional employment clearing houses are also operated in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D. C. Each issue of *Chemical and Engineering News* also contains employment information pages where situations open and situations wanted are listed.

In 1945 the Society created an ACS Education Fund for awarding predoctoral fellowships in 1946. It also appropriated \$110,000 for postdoctoral fellowships in chemistry and chemical engineering, and in September 1946 appropriated \$25,000 for expenses in the United States of foreign chemists and chemical engineers wishing to engage in advanced study.

Its advice is frequently sought in national affairs, particularly on pending legislation such as Selective Service, the National Science Foundation bills, etc.

The American Chemical Society, since its establishment more than 72 years ago, has sought to promote the advancement of chemistry, chemical research, and chemical engineering in an ever-widening sphere.

The American Chemical Society is another of the many organizations which are serving as hosts during the AAAS Centennial Celebration. The ACS building, shown on this week's cover, is located one block from the AAAS headquarters.