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## American Institute of Chemical Engineers

*Status changed from an Associated to an Affiliated Society, AAAS*

THE American Institute of Chemical Engineers was formed in Philadelphia, June 22, 1908, at an organizational meeting attended by forty engineers. The original idea for the founding of the Institute came from Richard K. Meade, founder and editor of the magazine *The Chemical Engineer*, who in 1905 editorially advocated such a society and said, "The profession is now a recognized one and there are probably five hundred chemical engineers in the country." Today, forty-five years after its founding, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers has 13,500 members, a growth which has paralleled that of the chemical industry.

However, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers cannot be explained merely in numbers. In the original editorial calling for the Society, Meade said, "Membership need not be large but it should be representative of the profession. Quality and not quantity should be the motto." This idea of quality guides the A.I.Ch.E. to this day, for membership requirements make it impossible for anyone not a practicing chemical engineer to become an active voting member. Active members not only must be engaged in chemical engineering, but must also have at least eight years' experience including five years in responsible charge of important chemical engineering work.

There are three other classes of membership: Associate, Junior, and Student. Associate membership is open to chemical engineers whose experience has not yet given them enough years of responsible charge. It also includes a broad group who are qualified to co-operate in the advancement of chemical engineering. Junior membership is usually composed of recent graduates still obtaining qualifying experience, while a student member is one enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree in chemical engineering.

The A.I.Ch.E. publishes monthly the magazine *Chemical Engineering Progress*, which in 1947 took the place of the *Transactions* founded in 1908. Other publications are the *Chemical Engineering Progress Symposium and Monograph Series*, low-cost varityped, photo-offset volumes of specialized interest to

chemical engineers. The papers published in these books are also abstracted and indexed in *Chemical Engineering Progress*.

Institute meetings are usually limited to one annual meeting plus three smaller scale national meetings, held in various parts of the country. In 1954, however, there will be five meetings, for a special meeting has been called to explore nuclear engineering.

The chemical engineers have representation in other groups: the American Documentation Institute, Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Engineering Education, American Standards Association, Engineers' Council for Professional Development, Engineers' Joint Council, National Association of Corrosion Engineers, and others.

One of the most important functions of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers is accrediting chemical engineering education. Since 1922 it has had an active program of evaluating chemical engineering courses in colleges and accrediting those that meet its standards. There are eighty accredited curricula in chemical engineering and ninety-nine colleges with student chapters of the A.I.Ch.E.

The Institute has four major annual awards, two of which are exclusively for junior and student members: the William H. Walker Award; the Professional Progress Award in Chemical Engineering (\$1000), sponsored by the Celanese Corporation of America; the Junior Member Award; and the A. McLaren White Award for the annual student contest.

The membership is represented through elected officers: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and twelve directors. The president of the organization for 1953 is W. T. Nichols, Monsanto Chemical Company, and the president-elect for 1954 is Chalmer G. Kirkbride, president of Houdry Process Corporation. The Society has its headquarters at 120 East 41st Street, New York City.

F. J. VAN ANTWERPEN  
Editor

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