(CHEMISTS' SECTION)

before long we may need not eight but sixteen pages for our section.

The Chemists' Section is, we believe, your best medium for increasing not only the membership, but the usefulness of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and it is up to you whether or not you wish to take advantage of the opportunity now before you. If the society wishes to remain in fact the Cotton Products' Analysts and merely in name the AMERICAN OIL CHEMISTS' SOCIETY, then the policies of your present editors should be condemned. If, on the other hand, you want to see the society grow until it includes every man in America who has any claim to the title oil chemist, you must be more generous in your contribution of articles to the Chemists' Section. It is up to you.

In conclusion, we would like to thank, from the bottom of our hearts, those who have contributed so generously of their time and talents to make *our section* interesting reading and to recommend that as a slight reward for their services they be elected associate editors. We would suggest for the coming year the following board of assistant editors: G. Worthen Agee, Charles Baskerville, R. H. Fash, G. S. Jamieson, John Malowan, I. G. Priest, P. W. Tompkins and David Wesson.

NEW ORLEANS MEETING OF CHEMISTS' COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Chemists' Committee of the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association was held in New Orleans at the Grunewald Hotel March 10 with all members present. No changes were made in the official methods, with the exception of a slight change in wording which simply clarifies, but does not change the meaning in the oil-refining method. It was also voted to print the details of the titer test instead of the reference as given in the present rules.

It was further decided to refer to the American Oil Chemists' Seed Committee the question of an official method for seed analysis, and to the F. F. A. Committee the question of the change of the method for the determination of F. P. A. in cottonseed oil and its products.

F. N. SMALLEY, Chairman.

REPORT ON CHECK-MEAL WORK FOR 1920-21.

By F. N. Smalley, Chairman Check-Meal Work.

The check-meal work of this season has in many ways been our most successful achievement. We have had the largest number of contestants ever gathered together for this co-operative work; we have had closer agreement in several instances than in any of the published results of former co-operative work, when more than 20 analysts reported.

I am presenting this report at this time with my recommendations so that the new departures may be given careful thought before our meeting and then intelligently acted upon. In order to learn the desires of the majority of the contestants, I recently sent out a questionnaire. My recommendations have been partly influenced by the information received therefrom, but also to a certain extent by new conditions and a desire to meet the same and to increase the usefulness of the work.

My recommendations are as follows:

1. That there shall be a series of 40 meal samples, issued one sample weekly, beginning about August 1.
2. That there shall be a series of eight fertilizer samples, or fertilizer material, beginning August 1 and issued monthly thereafter.
3. That there shall be a series of six oil and fat samples, the first to be issued June 1 and the re-

mainder distributed at bi-monthly intervals, on which request will be made for one of the following determinations: T. F. A., F. F. A., I. No., titer, cold test or such other determination as may seem advisable.

4. That there shall be a series of two crude cottonseed oil and one crude peanut oil for refining and bleach test sent July, October and January.

5. That a printed announcement describing these samples, the prices thereof and conditions governing the reporting, etc., be sent to all chemists who might be interested as soon as possible after the decision is made, and that a reasonable time limit be placed on receipt of applications and that the chairman be authorized to refuse any applications received after that date.

6. That the competition for the grand prize for best laboratory work on the meal analysis shall be continued until permanent ownership is obtained.

7. That certificates for best work on individual determinations of all subdivided series shall be issued, but that the announcement of winners and the awarding of the certificates shall be made only at the next annual meeting.

8. That the weekly reports shall contain no information which can associate the identity of the analyst with his results, nor shall any information be given at any time, other than as in the annual report, to the relative standing of any of the various analysts.

9. That it shall be the privilege of the chairman to publish figures at his discretion, showing the results obtained on individual samples or series of samples to provoke comment and helpful discussion, but that the identity of the analyst or analysts in such cases shall invariably be withheld.

In consideration of the fact that the work on meals has proven so beneficial, it seems desirable to extend this idea as far as possible to cover all methods of analyses which are customarily made by chemists of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and for this reason classes three and four are suggested. I do not think it would be advisable, in the case of class three, to ask for more than one determination at a time, for this season at least. I would suggest that during the first season crude soya, copra or other similar oils be excluded. It is necessary to know in advance how many samples are to be sent out in order to make complete preparation, which fact accounts for recommendation No. 5.

The certificates of this season were given with the idea that by awarding them on small groups of samples instead of the entire series late entries could have the advantages of some of the competitive feature of the contest. I propose after a year's trial to abolish certificates of this kind, and as a substitute to award them for best work in the individual determination of each series: that is, one for oil in meal, ammonia in meal, potash in fertilizer, iodine number in fat, etc. I also propose with particular reference to the awarding of these certificates a new method of calculation of results. That certain range of values be selected which are adjudged to be as meritorious as the actual accepted average, and that values falling inside this range be given a 100 per cent. value. For example, if the ammonia accepted average is 7.50, then 7.48, 7.49, 7.50, 7.51, 7.52 are equally meritorious as the 7.50, and would be valued 100 per cent. The analyst obtaining the greatest number of 100 per cent. merits during the season would be declared the winner, regardless of his values, which were not 100 per cent., or "par holes." In this way a late starter would have as much chance as one who started early, but did not obtain the "par" value, and in any case a fighting chance for final triumph.

I further recommend an entirely new system of re-