

Anniversary Dinner

THE SOCIETY OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS AND OTHER ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS held a Dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant, on March 4th, to celebrate the 56th Anniversary of the foundation of the Society.

The members and their guests, numbering over 100, were received by the President, Dr. J. T. Dunn, F.I.C., and Mrs. Dunn, and Dr. Dunn afterwards took the chair at the Dinner.

The guests of the Society included the Rt. Hon. Lord Atkin, P.C., D.C.L. (Lord of Appeal), Councillor J. G. Nixon, J.P. (Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne), Sir Ernley Blackwell, K.C.B. (Assistant Under-Secretary, Home Office), Mr. A. T. A. Dobson, C.V.O., C.B.E. (Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, D.Sc., F.I.C., P.R.S., Professor G. T. Morgan, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.I.C., A.R.C.S., F.R.S. (President of the Society of Chemical Industry), Mr. Percy Gates (President of the Institute of Brewing), Mr. George Gray, M.Sc., F.I.C., M.I.Chem.E. (Vice-President of the Institution of Chemical Engineers), Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.P. for the University of London, Mr. Norman Kendal, C.B.E. (Assistant Commissioner of Police), Mr. A. W. Monro, C.B. (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), and Mr. R. B. Pilcher, O.B.E. (Registrar of the Institute of Chemistry).

After the toasts of His Majesty the King and the Members of the Royal Family had been honoured, the President proposed the health of the Members of H.M. Civil Service. Dr. Dunn emphasised the harmonious relations which existed between those branches of the Civil Service which were intimately associated with the work of Public Analysts and Official Agricultural Analysts, and he described H.M. Civil Service as one of the great causes of the stability of this country, and as the object of envy and respect of other nations.

Sir ERNLEY BLACKWELL, replying to the toast, referred to the connection between the Home Office and the Society, and said that it was almost fifty years since the first two Official Analysts to the Home Office were appointed. He recalled the fact that one of the most distinguished of these analysts was the late Sir Thomas Stevenson, a former President of the Society. He pointed out that the evidence in Court that was based on the facts provided by analysis was, as a rule, accepted by both sides, though the inferences to be drawn from those facts were sometimes challenged.

Mr. A. T. A. DOBSON also replied to the toast, and referred to the friendly relations existing between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Society of Public Analysts. He said that cases in which permission to prosecute was given by the Ministry of Agriculture were seldom the outcome of deliberate fraud. He expressed the hope that farmers would in the future avail themselves even more than in the past of the facilities provided by the new Act to have their fertilisers and feeding stuffs examined by the Official Agricultural Analysts, in order to ensure that their supplies were of the required standard, and that they were receiving value for their money.

Lord ATKIN, in proposing the health of the Society, spoke of the value of the services of Public Analysts to the community, and contrasted the condition of the purity of food at the present time with that which was prevalent before the passing of the first Food and Drugs Act. He expressed the view that definite standards should be fixed for foods, and in particular for milk, and that the onus should be upon the vendor to prove that the article sold conformed to that standard.

The fact that vendors could defy the recognised standard for milk with an explanation about the idiosyncracies of the cow was due, not to legislation, but to a decision of three out of five judges in a certain criminal case. He had always longed for the time when an enterprising municipal authority would really fight this cause in a civil case, and take it, if necessary, through the Court of Appeal to the House of Lords, for the benefit of the community. It would bring great advantage to the public if that former decision could be altered. Lord Atkin also referred to the extension of the original basis of the Society, which now included the chemists of many of the leading industrial firms, and he laid stress upon the benefit to the community from the co-operation between these chemists and Public Analysts.

The PRESIDENT, replying to the toast, said that the income-tax authorities had recently defined a "learned society" as one that existed primarily for the benefit, not of its members, but of the public, and claimed that our Society, through the work it had done in helping to secure better food for the community, was entitled to that designation. The extension of its membership to include "other analytical chemists" gave it a still more authoritative position than formerly, for it could now speak as representing every branch of the profession.

The health of the Kindred Societies was proposed by Mr. A. CHASTON CHAPMAN, who pointed out how the various scientific societies, and particularly those connected with chemistry, were becoming more closely associated, owing to the way in which their work tended to overlap. Although he regarded this as a step in the right direction, he was personally of the opinion that each Society should retain its individual entity.

Sir F. GOWLAND HOPKINS, replying for the Kindred Societies, paid a tribute to the usefulness of the Journal of the Society of Public Analysts (THE ANALYST) to workers in biochemical laboratories.

Mr. E. HINKS proposed the health of the numerous guests, the toast being acknowledged by the LORD MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE and Mr. GEORGE GRAY.
