Did you ever stop to consider how your point of view changes with the addition of a few years and the accumulation of experience? When we are young we are most of the time unwilling to accept anything until we have proven it for ourselves. Our field of view is narrow and without the advantage of the true focusing device called experience. Moreover, we tend to cast aside the experienced help of others because we think it does not allow room in which to expand our "modern" ideas. Then as we grow older and sometimes reflect on our past experiences, our point of view begins to change. We discover that all the years we struggled to do our job, there were usually aids provided by more experienced people which could have made our job easier.

The 3-A Standards and the 3-A Symbol are aids provided for the sanitary, manufacturer and buyers of dairy equipment. These standards are the output of knowledge and experience, yet many are not taking advantage of the assistance they can give. This is due perhaps to inexperience or to an imperfect point of view.

The Functions of State Committees

Back in 1956 I became a member of the Dairy Industry Equipment Committee of the New York State Association of Milk Sanitarians. To tell the truth, at that time I knew very little about such a Committee or about such things as 3-A Standards, even though my association with the dairy industry began in 1940. My inexperience with groups who made recommendations for design and manufacture of dairy equipment led me to believe that such things as 3-A Standards could never replace or supplement my standards for such equipment. In spite of this youthful point of view, I thought that perhaps by joining such a group I could help them to understand "the man in the field point of view".

My first meeting with this Committee was a real experience and a revelation, for it was there that I met some of the sanitation keystones of the dairy industry—men like Clarence Weber, Jim White, Freddy Uetz, Paul Corash, and Bill Jordan, to name only a few. I learned at this meeting that the members of this Committee were dedicated to promoting the 3-A Symbol. It was apparent that these men of long experience were also dedicated to the dairy industry and that their energy was directed toward providing assistance to manufacturers of dairy equipment, as well as to the sanitary.

How Standards are Formulated

After that first meeting I decided to take another look at this idea of uniform equipment standards. The first thing I found was that a large number of sanitarians and industry people had a wide variance in their understanding and knowledge of the methods used to create a 3-A Standard. At other meetings I asked questions and obtained answers on why and how a 3-A Standard comes about. For instance, I found that people who make up the national Committee on Sanitary Procedure come from all over the United States, not just from New York State or Wisconsin or California, and that many of these committee members are leaders in the milk sanitation enforcement field. Also, there are men from the field who are dealing daily with the practical application of the standards. Such people have a large reservoir of knowledge concerning the sanitation needs of dairy equipment and no local sanitarian or equipment purchaser could ever be wrong in following the advice distributed by such a group.

This leads to another fact. All standards are the result of collective agreement, that is, the three representative groups of manufacturers, users and sanitarians must agree on its contents. This concordant attitude is the very hub of the system and assures standards which will be voluntarily accepted and put into practice. Other methods of writing and regulating standards for dairy equipment could be offered, but if a standards system is to satisfy all, then all must have a voice in their formulation.

Any interested person or group can request that a new standard be written for a specific type of equipment or an issued standard be revised. Such a request should be sent to the Chairman of the Committee on Sanitary Procedure of our International Association. It is a function of this Committee to receive, consider and comment on proposed standards and to request the participating groups to consider such items of dairy equipment for sanitary standards when it is desirable.
A very practical application of this procedure occurred within my duties as Chairman of the New York State Dairy Equipment Committee. In 1962, our Committee report contained information on pumps for recirculation of cleaning solutions. In this report we made reference to industrial type pumps and pumps of sanitary design. Some comparisons were made and our recommendations did not favor the industrial type pump. Shortly after the report had been sent to the New York Association's membership, I received a call from an industrial pump manufacturer who had read the report and took exception to its recommendations. I invited this man to one of our committee meetings to explain his pump and show its design. This man was introduced to the 3-A Standards system and the method used to formulate such standards and he was advised to request a revision of the 3-A Standards so that a pump of this type could be used in cleaning circuits. A letter from this manufacturer in April of this year stated, that after minor changes in design his pump was qualified under the revised standard, 3-A Recommendations for Permanently Installed Sanitary Product Pipelines and Cleaning Systems.

The prompt action of the 3-A Committee in this case stands out as an example of true cooperation between manufacturer and sanitarian. It also indicates that the standards system of attaining agreement among the three task groups, namely the national Dairy Industry Committee, the U. S. Public Health Service and our International Association, can be attained quickly in spite of the detail and number of persons involved.

Standards may also come about because of widespread interest by sanitarians and the dairy industry in new concepts. CIP systems containing welded lines is an example of this interest. In September of 1959 a pilot installation of welded sanitary pipeline was made in the metropolitan area of Buffalo, N. Y. This installation provided a practical means of developing methods for installation and inspections and it created a great deal of interest in the use of such lines throughout the industry. It also established a great number of axioms for welding procedures, inspection of such welds, the cleaning of such systems and the design of such systems.

All of the information gathered from this supervised installation was made available to members of the 3-A Standards groups. Today you will find most of the experience from this and other like installations included in the welding requirements of the revised 3-A Standards Accepted Practices for Permanently Installed Product Pipelines and Cleaning Systems. This serves to illustrate that standards are also born from practical field work and that field practices influence their requirements.

**FIELD APPLICATION OF THE STANDARDS**

It is important to the success of the 3-A Standards program that each of us do our part in helping to bring field information to the 3-A Standards groups. This can be achieved if you are willing to start the word rolling within your state associations. If your state associations do not already have a committee on standards for dairy equipment, then work for one to be created. This committee and its members should be organized with the intent to study and evaluate the sanitary aspects of equipment used in the dairy industry in regard to official or unofficial specifications and requirements as they apply to design, installation and/or operation, and to report such studies, evaluations or procedures to their association membership and other interested parties. The wording, "other interested parties" is included so that the committee will be able to communicate with members of the various 3-A Standards groups in an effort to solicit their help in making correction to present standards or to create new standards.

It is paramount that any state association member who is a member of a national 3-A Standards group be a member of this state committee. Such a member gives the state committee an indirect representation in any standard that is written, assuming that the state committee chairman provides a way for an exchange of opinions between the committee members and the 3-A Standards member. This can be accomplished by holding meetings at which proposed standards can be discussed and evaluated. The national 3-A member then has the collective thinking of his state group to take to the study meetings of the national 3-A groups.

This state committee can also provide a source of field information for the 3-A Symbol Council. The state committee, through its members and its association members, can be a clearing house for complaints on existing standards or 3-A Symbol bearing equipment. I emphasize here that all such complaints should be handled and analyzed by this local committee and, when this committee is convinced that there is a reasonable and a desirable correction needed, communication should be made with the 3-A Symbol Council in the name of the state association.

**IMPORTANCE OF FIELD CHECKING OF EQUIPMENT**

Now, all of this requires a lot of work by a lot of people, but if you or I want to sit back and not help to make the 3-A Standards system work, then we must lose our right to say that the system can't provide the required results.

It is important to realize that trying to get information from people in the field is difficult and sometimes disappointing. Our state committee has
made an effort for a few years to use a check list for each 3-A Standard established. These forms required a simple yes or no answer from the people using them and were sent to a number of people in the field. This check list not only offers a method of obtaining information concerning 3-A Symbol equipment, but it also serves the purpose of bringing to the official sanitarian, as well as others, the fact that such a standard exists, thus promoting the cause of standards. Our experience with this check list to date, has not been very satisfactory since very few are returned. Of those that were returned, all with the exception of one gave evidence that the present system of having the manufacturer attest to his conformance with the standard is working.

Most of the criticism that has evolved thus far consists of faults in finish or workmanship. It is this phase of manufacturing that can vary from time to time. It is also the area where the field sanitarian can function. When a piece of 3-A Symbol equipment is found to be unsatisfactory in one or both of these items, then not only should he ask for correction but he should see that a report of the conditions is transmitted to his state committee. The committee in turn should collect such information and, when sufficient items have been accumulated, the information should be transmitted to the 3-A Symbol Council. This brings about a step-by-step and more intimate system of transmitting information to the Council. I must add at this point that this method should not transplant the right of anyone to communicate directly with the Council when they so desire.

Use of the state committee will also help to resolve some of the ambiguity that so often results among sanitarians. For years I have heard sanitarians discuss in not so technical language what constitutes "smooth finish," "corrosion resistant," "easily cleanable," "sharp edge," "sanitary in construction," and many other terms. To resolve such terms requires the collective thinking of sanitarians. The state committee can act as interpreter and arbitrator for such terms when they are part of the field reports, thus assuring uniform use in communicating with the 3-A Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL SANITARIAN

The local sanitarian must face up to his responsibilities and assert his right to insist that equipment bearing the 3-A Symbol be used in establishments under his jurisdiction. In today's priority of milk sanitation, the official sanitarian has little time for designing equipment on a "spot basis" or approving manufacturer's prints. Therefore, the 3-A Symbol is an assurance that adequate sanitary design has been applied. This thinking has been given considerable help by the statement in the 1965 Recommendations of the U. S. P. H. S. Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance which reads, "Equipment manufactured in conformity with 3-A Sanitary Standards com-

The Journal of Milk and Food Technology has for a number of years published the various standards. They also provide the name and address of all concerns to which the 3-A Symbol has been granted. This information is necessary for those of us who require when necessary to answer questions concerning a specific standard. This information, however, may not be up-to-date because of publishing deadlines. The sanitarian can receive an up-to-date list by merely addressing a request to the 3-A Standard Symbol Council. This service provides the sanitarian with assurance his source is current to the date of his request.

Recently a standard for rubber used in the dairy industry drew some criticism from various quarters. As a working sanitarian I would like to say that rubber in the past has been a source and cause of unclean surfaces. We have demonstrated this several times with a swabbing technique known to many in this audience. In an investigation of the rubber manufacturer's methods used for dairy valves it was learned that no material standards were set up for this special dairy use. In fact, the rubber material used for dairy use varied little from the rubber used on the tires of automobiles. It is possible that the 3-A Standards written for such material may lack some detailed information or lack some testing method; however, the past rubber materials were not acceptable and some work with the rubber manufacturers was necessary. The 3-A Standard for rubber is a step in that direction and it is only by such steps that progress can be made.

THE ULTIMATE VALVE OF THE 3-A PROGRAM

This, I believe, is the true story of the 3-A Standards. They are not always perfect but, as they have been evolved over the past decade, they have provided the sanitarian with one of the finest tools in the trade. These standards have also over these years provided considerable foundation to the stature of the sanitarian. With the help of all groups these standards can become the right hand of every sani-
tarian and potential purchaser of dairy equipment. What we need to assure this is your cooperation in the following:

1. Familiarize yourself with the Standards, the Symbol and the system.
2. Work through your state association for a standards committee to act as a liaison between the field sanitarian, dairy industry people and the 3-A groups.
3. Accept and request 3-A Symbol equipment as the standard for design and construction of equipment being purchased for use, either as an official or as a purchaser.
4. Be sure 3-A Symbol equipment conforms to the standard, and, where it does not, report the instance to your state association.

And above all, if in the past you have not looked upon the 3-A Program with due consideration, be not reluctant to change your point of view. You do not take a step toward improvement until you accept the good in someone else’s point of view.

ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

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(appointments expire 1966)

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