

October 1931

TECHNOLOGY REVIEW





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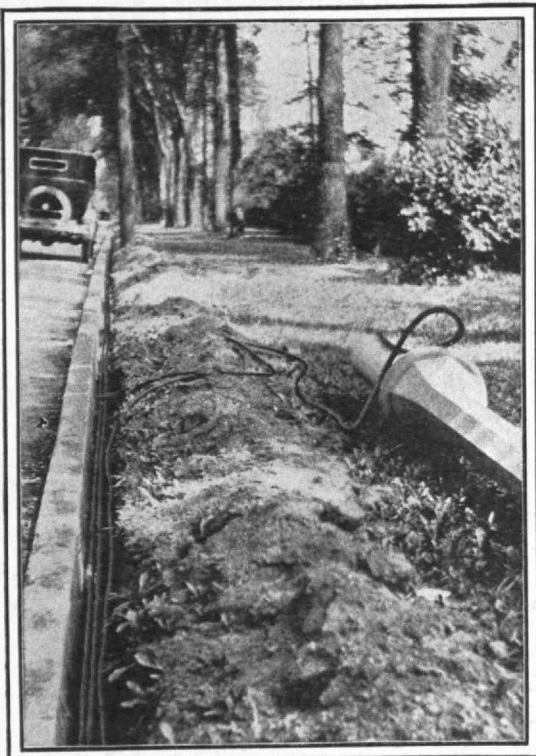
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THE TABULAR VIEW

IT would be difficult to find anyone more suited to the presentation of "New Lamps For Old" than Dr. ARTHUR D. LITTLE, for his name is closely allied with every phase of chemical engineering and with industrial progress. In this article he brings out the difficulties encountered in presenting new ideas for the advancement of progress, citing many instances from the past of men who have suffered at the hands of those who cannot (as he puts it) "see the oak in the acorn." ¶ To Dr. Little's list of "rejections" many more instances might be added. Simpson, the great surgeon who ushered in chloroform as an anaesthetic, could see no merit in Lister's advocacy of antiseptic treatment. Jenner met with reproof and rebuke when trying to convince his colleagues of the importance of vaccination. One of Joule's most important papers was refused publication by the Royal Society, and the mathematician, Poisson, once described as unintelligible a paper by Galois on the theory of groups — the paper that presented one of the great mathematical achievements of the Nineteenth Century. But progress continues in spite of the opposition of authority and, it seems meet to add, in spite of the dangers often accompanying laboratory experimentation. There are many instances, few of which are known to the general public, where men of science have risked their lives to test the theories upon which they are working. In London six medical men allowed themselves to be subjected to cancer experiments to test a theory of the cause and development of this disease, and many have given their lives to the cause of radium and the development of the use of x-rays. ¶ Dr. Little is a man of ideas as well as action, and has evolved from his work a definite philosophy — a kind of chemical philosophy, if you will — but all the more interesting for its uniqueness. And A. D. Little, Inc. (dedicated to industrial progress), is a definite embodiment of his philosophic principles of chemistry, and ample proof of his theory that research serves "to make building stones out of stumbling blocks." His ability to relate chemistry to everything about him has made him as well known among bankers and in business circles as among chemists. In an address before the Annual Convention of New York State Bankers in 1923 on "The Chemistry Behind the Dollar," he shows how chemical laboratories are the prime movers for the machinery of civilization. "I doubt if a corporation is listed on the New York Stock Exchange that doesn't in some phase of its activities touch chemistry." On another occasion, he pointed out the importance of science and invention as creators of jobs (a point not generally taken into consideration by critics of the machine age, as President Compton has frequently remarked). ¶ Dr. Little, a member of the class of 1885 at the Institute, was given an honorary doctor's degree last June by Columbia University. He has been President of the M. I. T. Alumni Association; he was the guiding spirit in founding the M. I. T. Chemical Engineering Practice Schools; and he is a Life Mem-

(Concluded on page 4)

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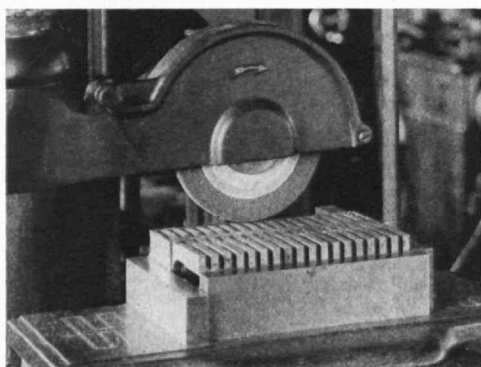
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THE TABULAR VIEW

(Concluded from page 2)

ber of the Corporation. Many honors have come to Dr. Little. He has been President of the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the Society of Chemical Industry of Great Britain (a position previously held by only four Americans, and a recognition of the highest attainment in chemical engineering). Last January he received from the Society of Chemical Industry the highest honor it bestows, the Sir William Perkin medal, for outstanding accomplishment in the realm of chemistry.

THIS might well be considered the Age of Criticism; that is, criticism in the literary sense as a constructive analysis of things as they are. A little of the scientific spirit of getting to the heart of things has appeared in every thoughtful person, with the result that we find many interpretations and analytical appreciations of the world we live in today. "Slide Rule Civilization," by the Honorable RAY LYMAN WILBUR, Secretary of the Interior, is such a criticism; it is the interpretation of our standard of living from the point of view of an educator and a statesman. He believes our civilization is founded on the use of facts, compiled from our education and enlarged by our experience, and the expert is the man who can arrange these facts to render practical service to the community and to the nation. This paper was first presented to the members of the 1931 graduating class of M. I. T. A member of President Hoover's cabinet (we suppose everyone knows this!), Mr. Wilbur is also President of Stanford University.

DR. ALLAN WINTER ROWE, '01, has in the past contributed several articles on endocrinology to The Review, based on his experience as Chief of Research at the Evans Memorial. His thesis in "Chemistry's Next Service to Medicine" is that the chemist has much to contribute to the manufacture and synthesis of active principles and in the determination of the identity or similarity of certain hormones now drawn from widely different sources; in devising a means of standardization on which accurate dosages may be based; in eliminating active contaminants; and in making possible lower prices.

SINCE the article on rocket propulsion by J. RHYNE KILLIAN, JR., Editor of The Review, was written, an announcement has been made of a series of rocket experiments to be conducted by Dr. Darwino Lyon in the Lybian desert. ¶ J. F. BRANDT, who contributed the article on optical glass in the Trend of Affairs section, is affiliated with the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company of Rochester, N. Y. ¶ The cover picture of this issue was reproduced from a copyrighted photograph by Captain ALFRED G. BUCKHAM, one-time member of Britain's Royal Air Force, now plying his great gifts as a photographer in the United States. ¶ The cover photograph shows a scene near the Firth of Forth Bridge, Scotland.

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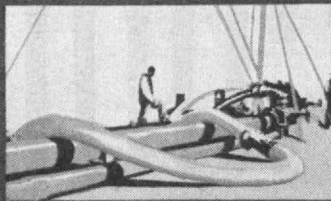
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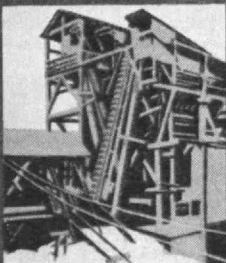
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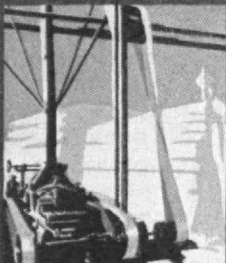
Goodyear Air Hose as installed by the G.T.M. for heavy pneumatic tools in quarry



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Goodyear Elevator Belt as recommended for New Braunfels Limestone Co., New Braunfels, Texas



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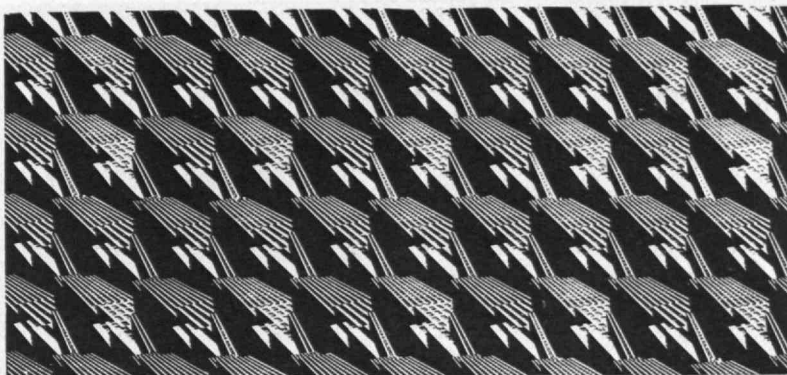
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THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

A NATIONAL JOURNAL DEVOTED TO SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND THE PRACTICAL ARTS

Edited at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

VOLUME XXXIV

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Editor
J. RHYNE KILLIAN, JR.

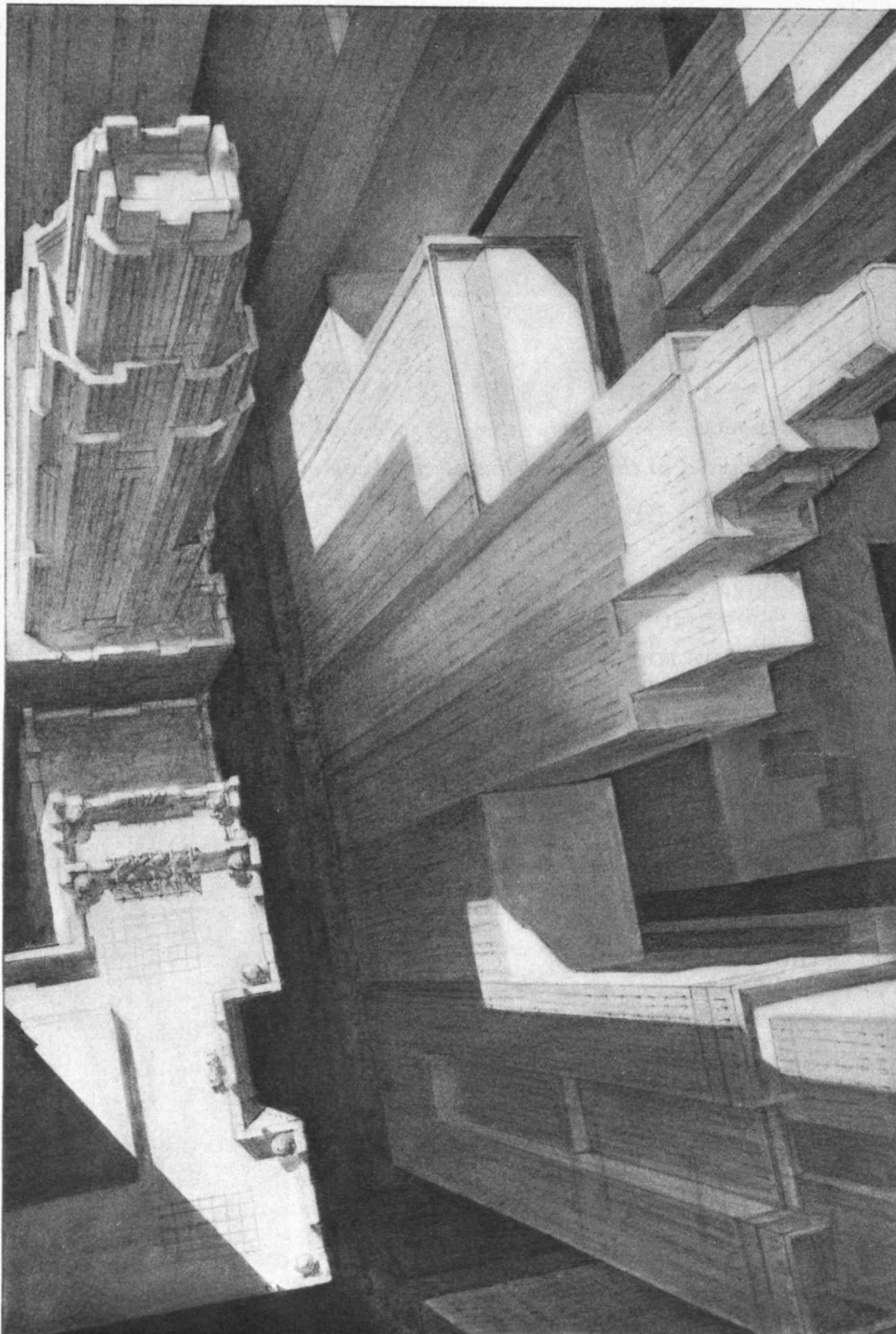
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From a pencil and crayon drawing by Leopold de Postels of the de Postels Studio

Leopold de Postels

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