June 1937

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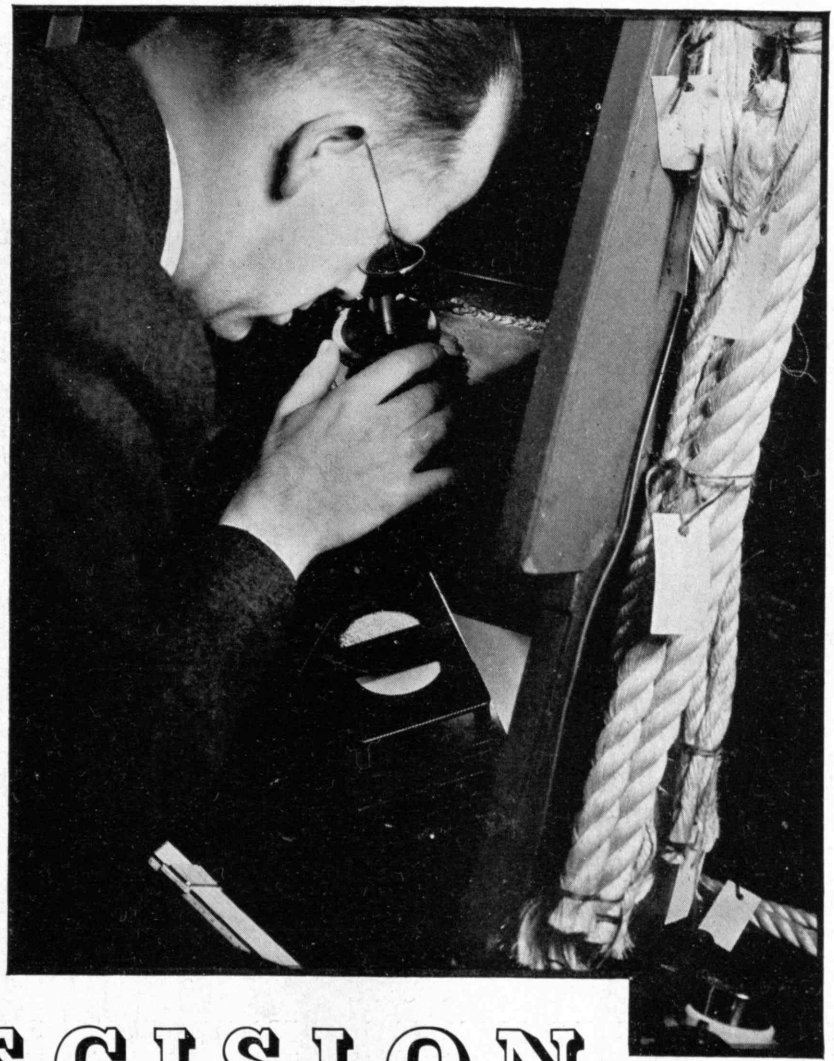

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Photo by Anton Bruehl

Powerful lenses . . . a beam of light . . . an electric recorder of infinite precision, measuring minute color variations in Manila fibers . . . Here, in the laboratory of the Plymouth Cordage Company, science is at work, checking the fiber examination—supplementing the judgment of those experts who first examine and qualify all raw fiber entering the plant.

This is but one of the many searching tests which control the quality and uniformity of Plymouth Ship Brand Manila Rope . . . In ceaseless vigilance, our laboratory men share with Plymouth ropemakers the responsibilities of manufacturing "The Rope You Can Trust"... the rope in which industrial users have expressed confidence for over a century.

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Tough — free machining in that metal chips break ahead of the tool and do not tear out — makes an excellent wearing surface — takes a high finish like steel — is dense and close grained — fully perlitic and contains no free ferrite — can be heat treated and hardened up to 500 Brinnell — these characteristics make it applicable in many cases where steel has been formerly used

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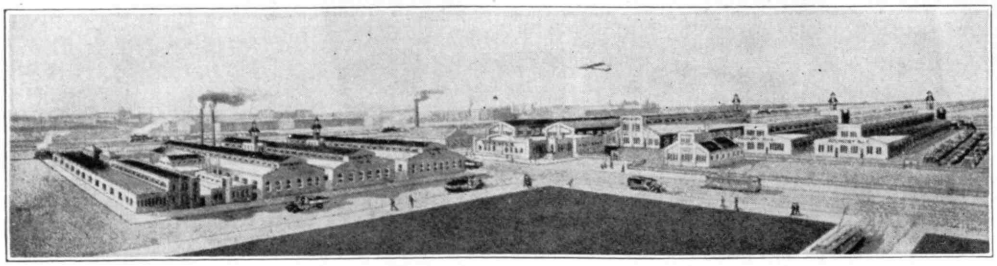

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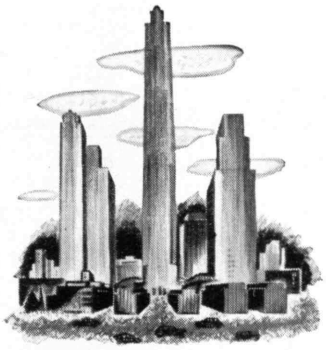

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Against that background Westinghouse Electric Elevator Company installed in New York's Rockefeller Center Development more than 140 elevators, an important contribution to better vertical transportation.

Rockefeller Center, New York — Marshall Field and Company Store, Chicago — Chrysler International Automobile Salon, New York

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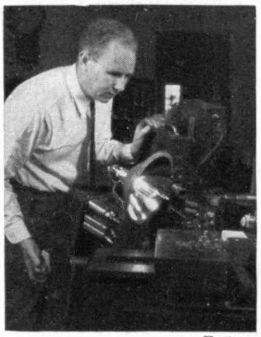
THE TABULAR VIEW

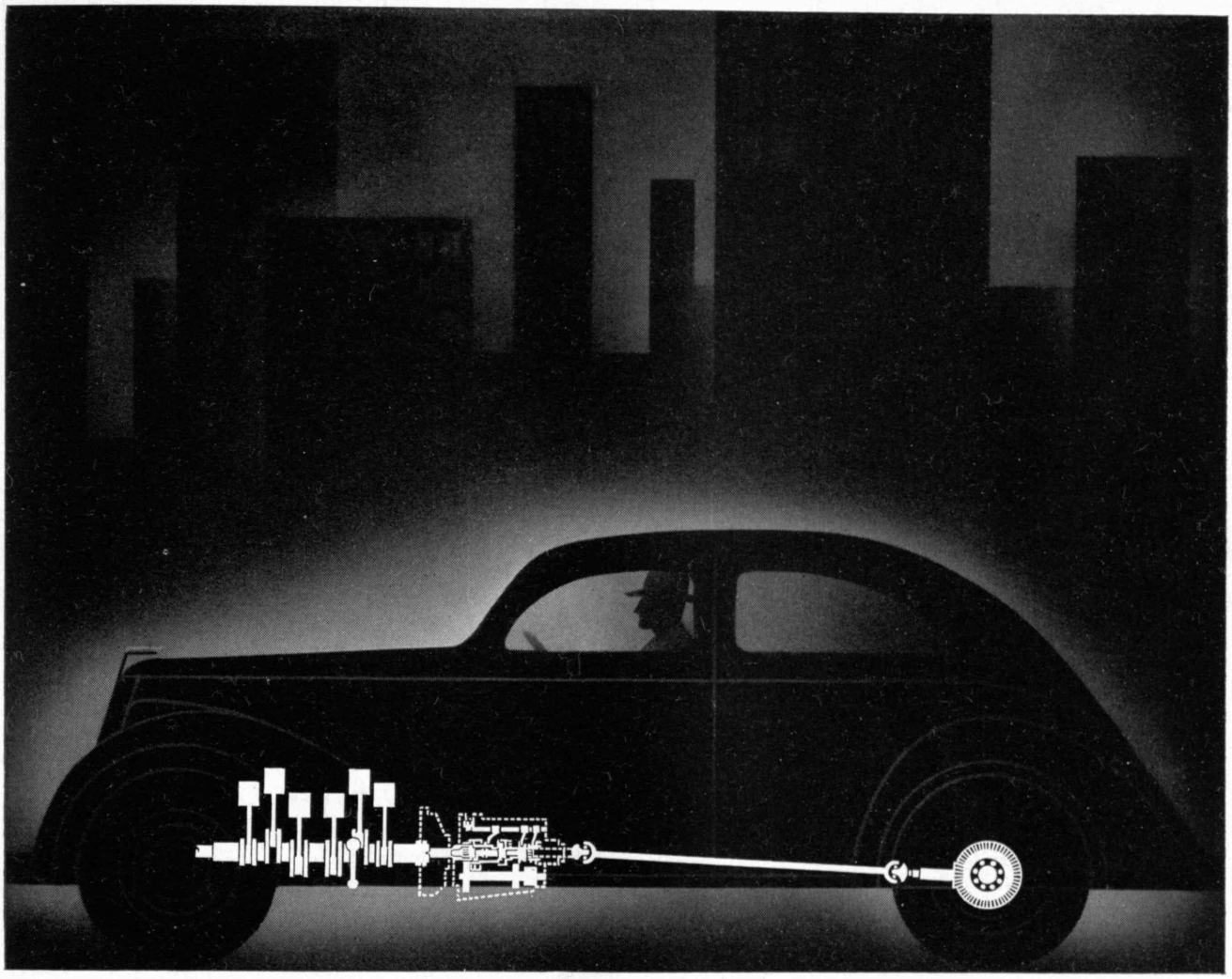


Fortune

WE of The Review amuse ourselves, come a rainy Sunday morning, by working out journalistic analogies of scientific devices and laws. While we haven't yet rounded out our analogue of the differential analyzer or of the "families of asymptotic cosmic-ray paths projected on the meridian plane" described on page 334, we have, as you may have observed in the March issue, neatly turned the stereoscope into an instrument of journalism by pointing out, politely or no, that The Review strives to present Science's new world picture in the startling clarity of relief.

And now we have codified another set of editorial principles, gathering them like electrons about a nucleus of analogy. It is the *stroboscope* this time. As readers well know, this instrument enables our eyes to see fast-moving phenomena that unaided eyes cannot see. The Review seeks to be a journalistic stroboscope for helping the intelligent layman to see, to analyze, and to understand the rapid-moving progress of science and technology. As it plays its stroboscopic light on scientists and engineers at work, it not only seeks to illuminate what they do; it reveals and permanently records, in hundreds of pictures, the startling, the strange, or beautiful things that are found in the sub-visual world of science or the ab-visual world of engineering.

THIS month the stroboscopic light plays on such fast-moving scientific activities as television (325), cosmic-ray research (333), biological engineering (346), atomic architecture (338), the efforts to make a daylight-producing lamp (327), avoiding selenium poisoning (328), charting the migrations of modern man (331), handling patents in an educational institution (348) — and many others that cover-to-cover readers will discover for themselves. ¶Behind the by-lines affixed to a few of these articles are these credentials: PHILIP M. MORSE, Associate Professor of Physics, is the author of a recent book, "Vibration and Sound." This month he is to deliver the Sigma Xi lecture at Case School of Applied Science, his Alma Mater. ¶M. J. BUERGER, '24, Associate Professor of Mineralogy and Petrography at the Institute and authority on crystallography, joins the MacMillan expedition to Baffin Island this summer as chief mineralogist and geologist. His collaborator, J. S. LUKESH, '36, is a graduate student majoring in crystallography at Technology. ¶FLORENCE W. STILES, '22, a graduate of the School of Architecture, is now its librarian and is president of the M.I.T. Women's Association. ¶Professor J. W. M. BUNKER is director of the Institute's research laboratories of biology. A report on some of his latest work as a researcher is given on page 352.



The "backbone" of the modern automobile

To THE automotive industry's everlasting credit it can be said that it has never relaxed in striving to make motor cars still safer, still more efficient, and of still greater dollar-for-dollar value. "Make it tougher, stronger, longer lasting," is the relentless self-imposed command. And, though the limits often seem to have been reached, engineering and metallurgical science usually manages to raise the standard another notch.

Molybdenum and Climax's years of field and laboratory investigations have contributed notably to this progress. Through improved steel-alloy analyses, the "backbone" of the modern automobile has attained a reach toward perfection undreamed of a decade ago.

"Moly" steels are going into crankshafts, connecting rods, steering arms and knuckles, transmission gears, propeller shafts, universals, ring-gears and pinions, rear axle shafts. . . . Not only making them better parts, but cutting production costs through improved heat-treating, forging, carburizing and machining.

Engineering and production heads are invited to send for our technical book, "Molybdenum." Our accumulation of data and the facilities of our laboratory are available to any concern interested in "Moly" toward solving difficult ferrous problems. Climax Molybdenum Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

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MOLY

MAIL RETURNS

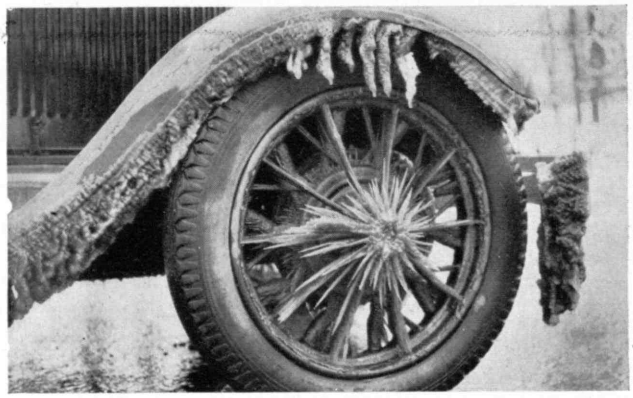
PICTURES AND LETTERS FROM REVIEW READERS

This Month's Mailbag

IN commenting on the photograph reproduced on the cover of the April issue we pointed out the distortion that appears in photographs (or their reproductions) if they are not viewed from the correct distance. In making this observation we dropped our guard, it seems, and Mr. Benjamin Ginsburg of Richmond Hill, N. Y., stepped in with a wallop (page 318) directed at the way The Review, and, we take it, every other magazine, reproduces photographs. ¶ Last month we started what we hope to be a regular practice — the reproduction in this column of interesting photographs from readers. Three such photographs embellish "Mail Returns" this issue (pages 316, 318, and 320). ¶ Fencing is a sport — a gentleman's game — in which Americans are showing increased proficiency. A shining example is Joseph L. Levis, '26, national foils champion, and we are sure he would ardently agree with the letter of Rear Admiral R. E. Bakenhus, '96 (page 320). The thought behind this call to foils and other arms of the fencing art is that Technology students have a unique opportunity to excel in this sport.

HERE, first of all, is a letter that tells us that the writer likes The Review — only that and nothing more. But what a joy it is to pick up an occasional letter from one of the men on location who merely wants to go on record as does Enoch F. Greene, Jr., '30, of Miami, Ariz. His letter: ". . . I have received every . . . number of The Review for this year . . . and I do derive much pleasure, as well as benefit (it seems to me) from The Review. You well appreciate that there are to be found in it articles and features of a kind that one would find in no other periodical in the world. . . ."

FROM ROBERT W. HUNN, '28:



The ice formation on the wheel after running over ice slushy roads seemed so unique that I had to record it. The picture may be of interest to persons more scientifically minded than I am. . . .
Louisville, Ky.

(*Continued on page 318*)