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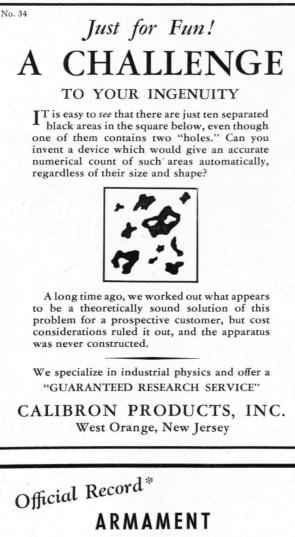
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PRODUCTION POLICIES

Questions – Answers

INDUSTRIAL EXECUTIVES AND ENGINEERS

*A RECORD OF A FORUM held in the Engineering Societies Auditorium BY THE NEW YORK POST of the ARMY ORDNANCE ASSOCIATION

- What are the Various Forms of Government Bids?
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THE TABULAR VIEW

Curare Cure. — To bring the unruly into useful order is no small part of the function of science, expressed in hundreds of different fields, conspicuous among which is that of medicine. Here known techniques, predictable therapies, reliable drugs, and other agents have been provided by scientific research to sustain the skill of the practitioner in his efforts to insure mankind against disease. This constantly continuing endeavor of science has only in comparatively recent years come much before the general eye, and still the drama and the inspiration which such endeavor affords yield place too often to the more spectacular appropriating of science for less desirable ends. Much interest therefore attaches to RICHARD C. GILL'S account (page 297) of the taming of the jungle arrow poison, curare, which during the past few years has been converted from a mysterious and undependable witch doctor's brew to a predictable and highly useful physician's medicament. A graduate of Cornell, Mr. Gill was for a time a member of the faculty of Lafayette College. Thereafter he was in commercial foreign service in South America, where in 1929 he acquired a ranch in the eastern sub-Andes which he has since used as a permanent expeditionary base for his own work and that of others with bona fide interests in exploration and investigation. Starting with general ethnographic surveys of the region, Mr. Gill became specifically interested in primitive Amazonian materia medica, out of which grew his work on curare.

Mercury. — Stone breaker in Australia, timber cruiser in Canada, copper miner in Arizona, RICHARD HALLET has included also in a crowded life intervals at sea as seaman on a British bark, fireman on a British mail packet, and watch officer on a United States Army cargo transport carrying horses to France in the days of the first World War. Hence he writes of destroyers (page 299) with the comprehension of ships and men which is attainable only through varied experience, and with the reflectiveness about states and systems which is to be had only from retrospect on such experience.

Boost. — Speed and more speed and how to get it constitute a problem generally in the fore of aeronautical minds. The physical limits imposed on what can be attained by one means must be offset, if possible, by resort to some other means. On this front, then, the engineering experimenter is seeking ways to supplement by unusual techniques the standard approaches to his problem. This critical business is canvassed for The Review (page 302) by PAUL COHEN, '35, Editorial Associate, able editor of *The Tech* in years past, and frequent contributor of shrewd analyses to The Review in years current.

Antique Artisans. — From his explorations of technology's past, LEROY L. THWING, '03, has returned before to The Review with anecdote, legend, and history — most recently in Decem- (Concluded on page 326)



WHERE "GOOD ENOUGH" WON'T DO

There are no "unimportant" parts in an airplane engine. Efficiency and dependability demand perfect performance all along the line. Consequently the only standard for selecting materials should be ability to meet the requirements.

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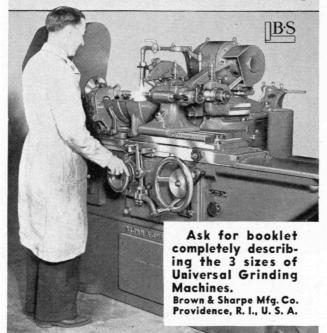
Our booklet, "Molybdenum in Steel", which contains a great deal of practical data, will be gladly sent free on request to technical students and others interested in improved materials.



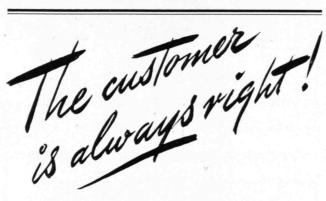
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MAIL RETURNS

Industrial Economics

FROM B. EDWIN HUTCHINSON, '09:

... I want to speak very highly of an article in the March Review by Henry M. Wriston on "The Worth of the Initiative." In a not too indirect way the thoughts in this article, in my opinion, bear on the subject of the Institute's prospective activity in the field of industrial economics. I have a feeling that our industrial techniques have far outstripped the development of our economic philosophy. I find myself groping to suggest some method which might bring the potential resources of the Institute to bear more directly on this larger problem... *Detroit, Mich.*

Teaching Fire Control

FROM FRANK L. AHERN, '14:

I have read with interest in the March issue of The Review the article, "Sir Thomas Gresham's Picture," by John E. Burchard, '23, discussing the effects of fires on cities. . . .

In my article, "Safety Is Good Management," in the March, 1940, issue of The Review, you will recall that I placed some emphasis on the suggestion that the fundamentals of fire protection and safety be included in engineering and architectural courses. It is a satisfaction to report that a course in fire protection engineering is now being given at George Washington University in connection with the Engineering Defense Training Program sponsored by the United States Office of Education. *Washington, D. C.*

Small Arms for Industry

FROM ROBERT H. JOHNSON, '26:

The editorial, "Small Arms for Industry," on page 241 of your April issue is very interesting. May I inquire from what source you obtained the figure of \$20,000,000 as the volume of portable-tool business for 1937? As far as I know, accurate figures are unavailable, since a large section of the portable-tool industry makes no reports on volume of sales. [The Review's figure was based on Bureau of the Census statistics for 1937. — Ed.]

You refer to the use of portable tools in the construction of battleships, locomotives, and airplanes, and go on to say: "A husky miner pounding at rock with a steel and a hand hammer can bore little more than five to ten feet of hole during an eight-hour day, whereas a modern pneumatic drill during the same time can penetrate 100 to 150 feet of rock." Yet you state later that the typical tool is driven by a high-speed universal motor through reduction gearing. In the applications to which you refer and in the various forms of hand tools which you list, a large percentage of the machines are hammers. In almost every instance they are operated by compressed air. In addition to these percussion-type machines, many of the rotating tools . . . are air operated. One can therefore hardly say that the typical tool is driven by a high-speed universal motor. The typical tool in the industries you mention is, I believe, air operated.

In the fifth paragraph you mention certain circumstances under which the power-driven tool is not only faster but better. You say: "When supplied with an adjustable clutch, a nut runner will set nuts to within 10 per cent of a predetermined tension, much closer than can be expected of handwork." A pneumatic tool without an adjustable clutch will accomplish this result when supplied with reasonably uniform air pressure, corresponding to reasonably uniform voltage for an electric tool. Moreover, the air tool does not require an engaging clutch when repetitive operations make necessary several engagements of a screw-driver bit or chuck in rapid succession. In this circumstance the electric machine would require not only an adjustable clutch but also an engaging clutch, because the inertia of the motor would cause the screw-driver bit or chuck to continue to spin for an appreciable time after disengagement, making it impossible to start another operation instantly. . . .

In general, not any known method of power transmission commercially available to an industrial plant will give, in proportion to power, the light weight and small size that compressed air gives. . . . *Pelham, N. Y.*



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or castings—to provide clearance for moving parts—and to prepare plate-edges for welded fabrication.



Hard-Facing – To make wearing parts last longer, Haynes Stellite hard-facing materials can be most effectively applied by the oxy-acetylene welding flame.



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Descaling — Structural steel, annealed forgings or castings, and other parts can be rapidly freed from scale by Linde's flame-descaling apparatus. Flame-cleaning is a similar ap-

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NUMBER 7

THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

EDITED AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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An ingot weighing 93,000 pounds being rolled on the world's largest plate mill, which has 206-inch rolls

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