TECHNOLOGY REVIEW February 1949





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how an AO Eye Protection Program can cut your costs.





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Crude thruput doubled ... gasoline octane level raised ...



Denver, Colorado Refinery of Continental Oil Company, with catalytic cracking, gas recovery, catalytic polymerization and L.P.G. Fractionating units designed and built by Lummus.

...an interesting example of integrated expansion

The new Lummus-built catalytic cracking unit at Continental's Denver Refinery was recently completed. Despite unfavorable weather conditions it went on stream about the middle of November, and within two days it was operating at design capacity.

The catalytic cracking unit was part of an integrated expansion program that included the design and construction by Lummus of three other new units-gas recovery, catalytic polymerization, liquid propane gas fractionation-and the modernization by Lummus of a thermal cracking unit.

Continental's Denver Program is an interesting example of refinery expansion accomplished by integrating new units with modernized existing facilities. This program practically doubles the crude thruput at Denver and raises the octane level of the finished gasoline. Lummus engineers are available for a thorough study of individual problems involving the modernization or expansion of existing facilities and the projection of new programs.





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THE TABULAR VIEW

He flies through the air bent on achieving the most rapid transportation possible, yet the typical air passenger seldom gives thought to safety until tragic crashes come to his attention. The case of safety in the air is ably and authoritatively presented in the personal opinions (page 215) of W. MACK ANGAS, '17, Rear Admiral, director of the Atlantic Division of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Civil Engineer Corps, United States Navy, and Lieutenant Commander WIL-LIAM T. HARDAKER, Naval Air Technical Training Command, Memphis. Although not expressing official Navy views, both officers have had extensive experience in flying, and in airport design and construction for the Navy. Admiral Angas is already favorably known to Review readers for his articles on maritime matters. As one of its new authors, The Review welcomes Commander Hardaker who has flown more than 2,700 hours since getting his wings in 1939, mostly in the Central, South, and Southwest Pacific during the first 18 months of World War II.

With the greatest of ease and with good (if misguided) intentions, large numbers of this nation's agriculturalists have contributed to destruction of this country's topsoil. The problem of soil conservation is gradually becoming recognized as a major factor in providing a food supply for the world's steadily growing population. In this issue (page 221) EDWARD H. GRAHAM outlines some of the projects now in progress to conserve soil, and indicates the extent to which engineering is necessary in this program. Dr. Graham is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh (B.S., 1927; Ph.D., 1932), and for several years was associated with the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh as assistant curator of botany. Since 1937 he has been with the United States Department of Agriculture where he is now chief of the Biology Division of the Soil Conservation Service.

The daring young man who, palette in hand, appears to daub undecipherable patches of oil on canvas, may have a message for the conventionalists after all. PAUL MEADOWS turns to their writings for an interpretation (page 220) of the work of the contemporary rebel painters. Dr. Meadows, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska, has been an avid student of social movements and the human aspects of modern industrialism for many years, as his articles in The Review testify.

On the flying trapeze of easy money for mathematical accomplishment, many an abecedarian, and occasionally a scholar, has come to grief. Attracted by prizes which have been offered, many tackle problems beyond their ability for utilitarian reasons, as WILX LEY points out (page 225). Mr. Ley, an Editorial Associate of The Review, for the past five years, is probably best known for his writings on matters pertaining to rockets. He also delves into other aspects of science writing, including a number of books, of which his latest is *The Lungfish, the Dodo, and the Unicorn*.



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MAIL RETURNS

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FROM LLOYD ESPENSCHIED:

Permit an outsider to express his appreciation of the article on Ampère in the December, 1948, issue of The Review, written by David and Charlotte B. Landau. It's a beautiful picture of the times, the man and his accomplishments; an appropriate recognition of one of the greatest of electrical scientists.

Such an article should be relished the more because we in the United States are none too well informed on the Continental contributors to electricity and magnetism, the result, apparently, of the language barrier, of the fact that the Continental contributors were divided between a number of nationals, and perhaps have been lacking in publicity sponsors, certainly in the English language, compared to the British.

Before me is Ampère's book of 1822, Recueil d'Observations Electro-Dynamiques. The contents of it are well summarized in the international language of the 10 plates of figures. Here we see some of the earliest illustrations of the electrical conductor wound up into a coil^o to enhance the magnetic effect; long, thin coils, short, fat coils (pancake coils), and single loops mounted delicately on pivots and capable of rotary displacement and thus showing mechanically the inductive action between two circuits carrying current. Here we see some of the carefully constructed apparatus with which Ampère determined some of the primary laws of electromagnetism, measured the interaction as a function of distance and angle between coils, which he then expressed mathematically.

Perhaps our conception of his contribution would be clarified if, instead of using the term "electrodynamics," which has little currency today, we simply said that following Oersted's discovery, it was Ampère who first elucidated electromagnetism and supplied the primary knowledge of electromagnetic-mechanical action. He was the

^o The simple but basic contribution of wrapping a wire up into a coil, and thus "multiplying" the effect of a single wire, Ampère shares in the year 1820 with Schweigger of Halle who orginated the galvanometer.

(Concluded on page 242)



We have recently erected our 7th building for E. A Laboratories—the first erected in 1919.

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