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Investigation on problems related to photographic chemistry.

In December 1938, Mr. Crabtree became actively associated with the American Standards Association as a member of the Sectional Committee Z38 on photography. When this work was reorganized in 1950 and the original Sectional Committee replaced by four new Sectional Committees, Mr. Crabtree was named the chairman of one of these, PH4—Processing. A record of close to 90 approved American Standards in the field of photographic processing were revised and initiated under his leadership while heading this committee. On December 3, 1956, he was presented a hand-illuminated scroll by the A.S.A. at a dinner in New York City honoring him for his outstanding services to that organization over a period of 18 years.

In 1924 Mr. Crabtree became a naturalized citizen of the United States. In private life he describes himself as a farmer and resides on Canandaigua Lake near Middlesex, N.Y., where he takes a lively interest in the affairs of the township.

For more than forty-three years, John I. Crabtree has worked diligently at his chosen profession of photographic chemistry. Much of the advancement of knowledge of general photographic chemistry and motion-picture processing reactions and techniques can be traced directly to his researches and that of colleagues under his supervision.—*Glenn E. Matthews.*

## Film Storage

A report on "Fire Effects and Fire Control in Nitrocellulose Photographic Film Storage" has been prepared by the National Bureau of Standards.

The report presents the findings of an inter-agency committee appointed to conduct an extensive investigation into the hazards involved in the storing of nitrocellulose film with recommendations for safety measures.

The inter-agency committee, composed of representatives from government and private organizations, such as the National Archives, Department of Defense, Motion Picture Association of America, and the National Automatic Sprinkler and Fire Control Association, limited its investigation to the problems of storage of nitrocellulose film.

A booklet prepared by the Eastman Kodak Co. extends the field of inquiry to include the problems of storage of acetate or "safety" film. The booklet, entitled "Hazard in the Handling and Storage of Nitrate and Safety Motion Picture Film," may be obtained at no charge from the Eastman Kodak Co., Motion Picture Film Dept., Rochester 4, N.Y. A supplemental pamphlet now in preparation reports on "The Preservation of Nitrate and Safety Motion Picture Film."

As part of the Bureau of Standards investigation, a vault was constructed near Beltsville, Md., and an experimental program set up to investigate the effects of such factors as film containers, racks and sprinklers, to film load and venting.

The 20-page Bureau of Standards report gives a full description of the experiments carried out and procedures used, together

with recommendations for special situations. Conclusions generally are: (1) Each vault for the storage of nitrocellulose film should be provided with a vent of sufficient area to prevent the development of dangerously high pressures during a fire. (2) With closed-front compartmented racks and a film load of 5 lb/in. of vent area, pressures as high as 0.25 lb/in. were observed. Vaults, including doors, should be designed for such pressure, when they are to be equipped with such racks. (3) If open-front compartmented or skeleton film racks are employed and the film load kept at or below 5 lb/in. of vent area, pressures as high as 1.0 lb/in. may be developed during a fire. (4) Temperatures observed were sufficiently high that only masonry or other equally noncombustible construction should be used for film vaults. (5) The film should be stored in close-fitting metal cans or containers giving equal protection, placed on racks within the vault. (6) The film may be completely destroyed unless the vault is equipped with closed-front insulated compartmented film racks or adequate automatic sprinkler protection. The closed front compartmented racks employed should be so constructed to prevent the spread of fire from one compartment to another. By adequate sprinkler protection is meant one sprinkler head, preferably of the directed-spray type, for each 60 ft of vault. (7) The minimum destruction of film was obtained by the use of closed-front compartmented racks and automatic sprinklers of the directed-spray type.

Additional recommendations for property protection are: (8) The film in a vault or group of vaults represents a hazard to the surroundings so that vaults should be located where they may be expected to remain isolated from valuable property. (9) The vaults used should be equipped with vertical vents or means to deflect the discharge in a vertical direction. The minimum dimension of the vent should be greater than the maximum dimension of the film containers to be stored. The throat edges of the vent should be beveled or funneled at approximately 45° to prevent film containers sticking in and partially reducing the vent opening. (10) Any cover on the vent should be so designed and constructed that it will open before the internal pressure rises to 0.25 lb/in. (11) Any device such as electric or heating equipment that might ignite film should be placed and enclosed in such a manner that contact with film is not possible.

The Eastman Kodak project undertook to answer such questions as: (1) Will safety film burn? (2) In the event of a fire, does safety film give off gases which are poisonous or explosive? (3) What precautions are required in handling and storing safety film from the point of view of hazard? (4) How can safety film and nitrate film be readily distinguished?

The Eastman researchers found that safety film presented a minimum hazard in handling and storage. The real danger, they found, was that nitrate film might be mistaken for safety film when the two types are used by the same studio.

The Bureau of Standards publication may be purchased for 20 cents by addressing: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.—*R.H.*

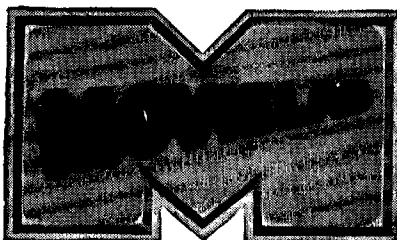
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