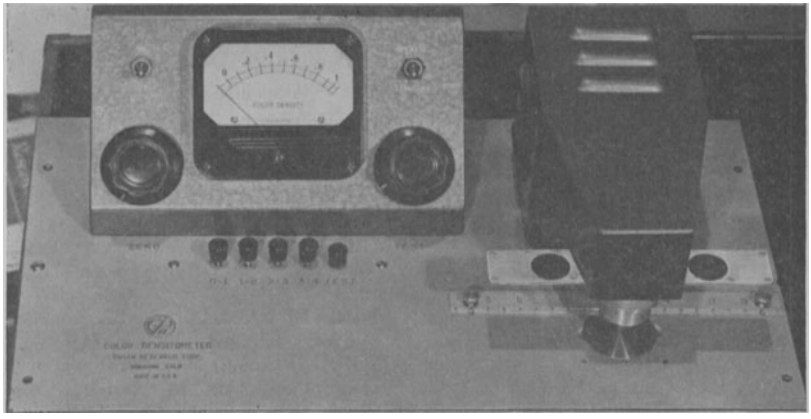
# New Products

**Further information concerning the material described below can be obtained by writing direct to the manufacturers. As in the case of technical papers, publication of these news items does not constitute endorsement of the manufacturer's statements nor of his products.**

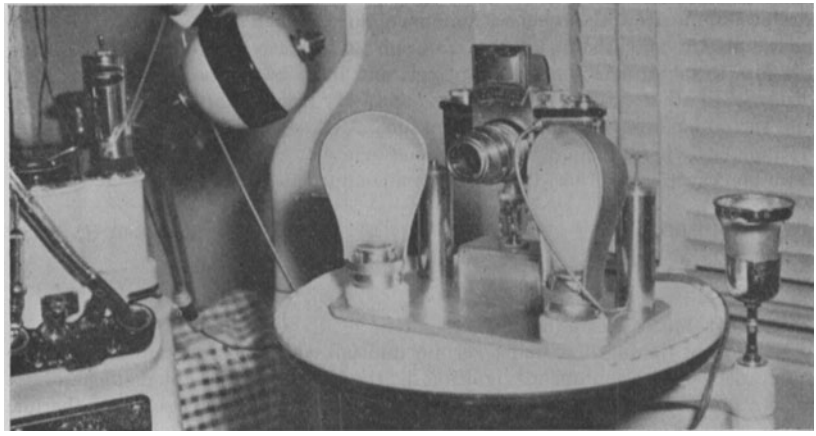


**The Color Densitometer** above has been developed by Photo Research Corp., 127–129 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, Calif. It is for measuring over-all color density as well as the effective density of each of the color layers in color film.

The density of the individual exposures of the sensitometric strip are read on the densitometer and are plotted against the individual steps which produced them. When these plotted points are connected by a smooth curve, there is obtained the H & D characteristic curve of that particular film or emulsion. Such curves are used as a guide in the determination of proper lamp current, developing solution and processing time and temperature.

In the case of subsequent laboratory operations — duping, the making of separation negatives, printing and optical work — the number of possible applications becomes much greater. If the color original is not in perfect balance, corrective measures will be applied at this stage, and in order to apply these intelligently it is necessary to know the density range in the three bands employed, blue, green and red, as well as to know the diffuse density reading of masks. If the original is in balance, such information is necessary to insure retention of this condition in future copies. For such purposes an ordinary densitometer is of little assistance, and it is for these that the PRC Color Densitometer has been created.

**SMPTE Officers and Committees:** The roster of Society Officers was published in the May JOURNAL. The Committee Chairmen and Members were shown in the April JOURNAL, pp. 515–22; changes in this listing will be shown in the September JOURNAL.



**The Gibbs Photodont** is here shown on a dental bracket table with a Kine Exakta V Camera, for which the exclusive U.S. distributor is Exakta Camera Co., 46 W. 29 St., New York 1. This unit is designed for dentists and doctors, to secure intra-oral Kodachromes and for photographing in the specialties of dermatology, plastic surgery and opthalmology. The built-in light unit is independent of the flexible camera mount, and, to minimize patient discomfort, the two lamps in a fixed position glow at a low intensity except at the moment a picture is being taken. This unit has a retail price of $59.50.

# Letters to the Editor

I have read with interest the article appearing in the March JOURNAL, entitled "Spontaneous Ignition of Decomposing Cellulose Nitrate Film."

There is no doubt, as the authors state, that deterioration of film caused mainly by faulty processing can be a source of spontaneous combustion, but this does not tell the entire story. Spontaneous fires can also start in cellulose nitrate film without the preliminary warnings detailed in the excellent photographs appearing in the article.

We recently had a fire which took place with comparatively new film in which the gelatin had been removed by our usual washing process and we know that this film was clean and free of any extraneous matter when it ignited.

My contention is that cellulose nitrate can contain higher degrees of nitration than is wanted for film and this higher nitration at times is one of the causes of spontaneous combustion, particularly with elevation of temperatures. I realize that this is an alarming statement, but it is borne out by my experience. The remedy is that the film should, therefore, be stored under proper conditions.

For one thing, film should not be stored in iron drums, as they are conductors of heat and rapidly transmit the heat from one drum to another in a vault filled with such drums.

The fundamental thing in designing vaults and containers, and in storing nitrate film, is insulation, not conductivity. Insulation is obtained by separating quanti-