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CHANGES IN GRADE

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Chemical Corner

Edited by Irving M. Ewig for the Society's Laboratory Practice Committee. Suggestions should be sent to Society headquarters marked for the attention of Mr. Ewig. Neither the Society nor the Editor assumes any responsibility for the validity of the statements contained in this column. They are intended as suggestions for further investigation by interested persons.

Chamois Fabric "X-Lint" is a fabric impregnated with "Hycar" latex which has all the properties of chamois but wears longer and, the manufacturer states, is unaffected by chemicals ordinarily harmful to chamois. "X-Lint" does not have the ragged ends and thin spots of chamois. The manufacturer of this product is Loren Products Corp., 101 West 31st St., N.Y. 1, N.Y.

New Idea in Filter Cloths Dynel filter cloths are made of acrylic fibers and are claimed to be superior to most filter materials because they are supposed to have good dimensional stability, are mildew-proof, easy to clean and nonblinding. Inquiries are directed to The Filtration Engineers, Inc., Newark, N. J.

Task of Making Fixer Greatly Simplified The L. B. Russell Chemicals, Inc., 60 Orange St., Bloomfield, N.J., manufactures a single powder which, when dissolved in water, forms a complete, odorless acetic-acid, long-lasting fixer. This preparation is called Super-Fix. The company states that film processed in this fixer will wash easily because of the proper adjustment of the pH and will have a well-hardened emulsion. Furthermore, the hypo which is used here is dehydrated, resulting in great reduction of bulk. This fixer powder eliminates the use of hypo crystals, acetic acid and all the other heavy fixer chemicals. This should be of interest to the smaller laboratory.

Floor Refinishing "Plastic Rock" makes a perfectly new, durable floor in forty-eight hours. It bonds well to concrete, wood and steel. It also is slipproof and fire resistant. The vendor is United Laboratories, 16801 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

Insect and Pest Control U.S. Industrial Chemicals has developed a new type of insecticide during World War II which they call "Lindane." It is claimed to be one of the most effective modern chemical insecticides. "Lindane" is effective against a wide variety of insects and is harmless to humans. The address of the manufacturer is 60 E. 42 St., New York 17, N.Y.

Corrosion-Proofing With a New Galvanizing Compound "Zinc-Rech" cold galvanizing compound produces an electrochemical reaction which deposits zinc on steel or iron surfaces, thereby galvanizing them. It can be applied by dip, spray or brush. Inquiries are directed to The Chase Chemical Co., 40 W. 29 St., N.Y. 1, N.Y.

Motion Picture Film and the Weather In the *Heating, Piping and Air-Conditioning Journal*, vol. 22, H. C. Brush, in his article "How humidity and temperature affect motion picture film," describes some interesting relations between temperature and relative humidity and various physical properties of film such as buckle, curl, shrinkage and brittleness. The influence of the atmospheric conditions on dust control, static, and storage of film is also considered.

New Idea for a Small-Capacity Water Filter A small water filter employing anthracite coal as a filtering medium is described in an article, "Fotopak water filter for finishers," in *Photo Developments*, vol. 24. The unit has a capacity of 100 gal/min, and no filter cones are needed.

Dye-Coupling Developers as Toners Since the use of uranium nitrate for the toning of motion picture film has been discontinued, it is difficult to duplicate the color with other toners. It is possible now, however, to achieve similar, and perhaps an even wider range of, tones by the use of dye-coupler developers. In this process the highlights are left entirely free of stain. The method is described in *The Photo Lab Index* as well as in many other such reference books. The chemicals are obtainable from The Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester 4, N.Y. The F. R. Corp. has marketed such a toner-developer under the name of "Develochrome." It is described in *Photo Trade News*, vol. 14, Sept. 1951, in an article by G. Steans.

Keep Out the Fire Weldwood Fire Doors have good insulating qualities for maintaining low temperatures in the protected areas. In a recent test the temperature of an exposed face of Weldwood Fire Door stayed down to less than 400 F after a 1-hr exposure to flame compared to 1000 F and 800 F for other fireproof doors. This product is marketed by U. S. Plywood Corp., 55 W. 44 St., New York 18, N.Y.

Watch Out for Old Film Valuable data on the subject of the composition and combustibility of nitrate film is discussed in the article "The anatomy of nitrocellulose film," by R. A. Mitchell and published in *The International Projectionist*, Feb. 1948. When nitrocellulose film decomposes it gives off gases which are inflammable and are the cause of so-called celluloid explosions. The emulsion helps somewhat to slow down the combustion. The emulsion leaves a black ash and gives off harmful fumes.

Temperature Control Device for Experimental Darkroom Hanney and Waldram, in an article, "Controlled temperature equipment for the experimental darkroom," in *The Photographic Journal, Section B*, July-August 1951, describe a thermostatically controlled water bath which keeps solution bottles at a temperature of 0.2° and which maintains a stainless-steel developing dish at the same temperature by a water jacket. Safety devices are also described for the protection of the equipment which is left unattended.

Back Issues of the Journal Available

The issues of May 1946, August 1946, February-July 1947 and September 1947 to date are available at $0.75 per copy from Robert G. Ellhamer, Box 2549, Hollywood Station, Los Angeles 28, Calif.

A set of Journals from October 1938 to the present date, except for the June 1939 issue, is available at $75.00 for the lot, from Harry Hollander, 21-36—77th St., Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y.