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NEW SERIES Vol. 94, No. 2439

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1941

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. MCKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

THE PACIFIC OCEAN¹

By Dr. H. U. SVERDRUP

SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY, LA JOLLA

THE Pacific Ocean can be discussed from a number of different points of view. One could deal with the history of its discovery and exploration from the time of Magellan's long and perilous journey up to the present day when clippers of the air cross and recross the ocean in a few days, or one could discuss its importance as a highway of the sea carrying trade between large surrounding countries, or one might consider it as determining the routes for the migration of man and the spreading of culture from island group to island group and from continent to continent. I shall not attempt to discuss the Pacific Ocean from any of these points of view, but shall, instead, deal with the water masses themselves and with the

¹ Contributions from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, New Series, No. 147. systems of prevailing currents, and shall indicate how the ocean influences the climate and the weather of the surrounding land and how the productivity of the sea, which is becoming increasingly important to the economy of man, varies from one region to another because of the character of the currents.

As a starting point let us examine the distribution of surface temperature over the Pacific Ocean in the month of August. The striking features are, in the first place, the vast extent of the tropical areas in which the surface temperature is very high, above 24° C. (75° F.), and, in the second place, the tongues of low temperature which extend towards the Equator along the western boundaries of the ocean, that is, along the coasts of North and South America. Due to the intrusion towards the Equator of these cold

ing manometer arm. The resistor is often represented diagrammatically as a short capillary, but in practice it takes on a variety of forms, for a simple short section of capillary glass tubing in the readily available bore sizes often fails to provide enough resistance.

The most frequently adopted way of obtaining high resistance, no doubt, is to use a long capillary, sometimes an unwieldy bundle of tubes several meters in total length. A common alternative is to decrease the diameter for part of the path by reworking the glass to form a constriction; a compact element results, but the danger of clogging is increased. A resistor that is both compact and nonclogging may be formed by packing small-bore glass tubing with fine sand, preferably narrowly fractionated as to size-say, 200-325 mesh-and washed free of dust. A resistor recom-



ş FIG. 1. Resistor in

longitudinal section. with cross section of threaded parts.

mended by Bruun¹ comprises a short capillary tube containing an exchangeable wire, different magnitudes of resistance being obtainable by use of different sizes of wire in the same tube.

All these types of resistors have one feature in common that is sometimes a serious drawback. When for purposes of standardization it is desirable to have precisely a given amount of resistance, accurate construction is at best a tedious job, and in some cases practically impossible. This fault is obviated in the device described below.

In this resistor (Fig. 1), as in that of Bruun, resistance is effected by a short capillary containing a corrosion-resistant wire. Unlike Bruun's device, however, the wire (W) extends through somewhat less than the

whole length of the glass capillary tube (T), the length of the inserted portion being determined roughly in advance by calculation and subsequently corrected experimentally to a close approximation. The protruding end of the wire is soldered to one end of an adjusting screw (A), which fits within an inside-threaded metal tube (M). The screw is grooved on the other end for operation with a screw driver, and is cut down flat throughout its length on two opposite sides to allow free passage of air through the metal tube. The glass and metal tubes are ap-

1 J. H. Bruun, Ind. Eng. Chem., Anal. Ed., 11, 655 (1939).

proximately the same in outside diameter, and are connected closely by one (R_1) of three similar short sections of heavy-wall rubber tubing. The other two sections (R_2, R_3) are slipped around the glass tube and the metal tube, respectively, some distance from the connecting section (\mathbf{R}_1) . A sheath (S) of springy sheet metal nearly surrounds the three rubber-tube sections, which it grips firmly by reason of its tension. and thereby serves as a splint to hold the assembly rigid. A ready-made article that lends itself admirably to use as the sheath is the spring element of a well-known type of paper clip.

The resistor may be installed in the flowmeter by the use of one or two connections of rubber tubing. depending on whether or not one end is to be left open to the atmosphere. When the assembly is otherwise complete, the wire, having been cut originally somewhat too long, is clipped down to give as nearly as possible the correct resistance when the adjusting screw is about midway between the ends of the threaded tube. Fine adjustment can then be made by turning the screw.

It should be pointed out that in a capillary containing a wire, where both are perfectly straight, the resistance will depend on how nearly centered they are with respect to each other. In practice, however, if the wire is nearly as large as the bore, the tendency of the former to kink will prevent any troublesome variation of the resistor as a whole.

This device has a wide field of usefulness, has a material cost of only a few cents, and is easily constructed without special tools.

ERNEST L. GOODEN

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