Editorial

CHEMICALS FOR THE ELECTROPLATING INDUSTRY

OUR country is becoming more and more industrialised and the need for a high quality finish both from protection and decoration is felt keenly. How can this be achieved by the electrochemist ? Finish specifications by themselves will only help to some extent to achieve this object. Basically the chemicals that go to make up the bath determine the quality of the electroplate. Chemical Industry in India has progressed very well for the past one or two decades.

The manufacture of acids and alkalies has been well established in the country and the demands of the plating industry are met completely. Out of the many chemicals required for electroplating a few salts like nickel, zinc, copper, chromium, etc. are produced indigenously. The quality of these chemicals is acceptable to the electroplating industry. To help the chemical industry, the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) have laid down a large number of standards for the chemicals used in the plating industry. The manufacturers of chemicals have been benefited by producing products conforming to Indian Standards Specification. Such a step gives a guarantee to the electroplater that if he used the right quality chemical he could expect a high quality deposit.

Many of the chemicals are fairly pure for other industries. For electroplating the purity has to be of a high order as traces of other elements would act as poison and the quality of the deposit would suffer badly. With the growth of industrialisation and with increased protection given by the Government the chemical industry should forge a lead and cater to the needs of the electroplating industry. There is a great future for this specialised manufacture of chemicals. It is hoped that by the end of the Third Five Year Plan period our country will be self sufficient in chemicals used in the electroplating field.

— S. K.