Editorial

DEVELOPMENT IN METAL FINISHING

THERE has been considerable post war development in metal finishing practice especially in electroplating, anodising and in conversion coatings. In many cases refinements of older processes have been suggested after due trials. A large number of proprietory processes has been developed for commercial production plating.

In the field of nickel and chromium plating the developments have reached such a stage that each commercial house claims extraordinary superiority over its competitors. A number of ready-made solutions are available to the plater for all types of plating. In our country the practical plating has not kept pace with the rapid development in electroplating. Specialised proprietory solutions are not freely available to our platers due to various factors ; chief among them is the restriction in imports. Even if the solutions are available our plating industry cannot use the specialised solutions for want of modern equipments. The plating industry is clinging to the orthodox method of plating not because the platers are unwilling to change over but because they have no faith in new solutions. The plating houses should come forward to help the commercial plating organisations to use their proprietory solutions without any recompense. Further, research laboratories engaged in electroplating should help the platers in using new solutions by removing the teething troubles.

In the field of anodising the technique has also advanced to a large extent, and the anodising industries have to keep pace with the developments so that the challenge of good finish for aluminium could be met squarely. In the field of conversion coatings, the new technique of colouring the chromated films after zinc plating has been introduced to increase the sale appeal.

To enable these developments, in the field of metal finishing, to be adopted in our country, a vigorous drive shall have to be made. A beginning has been made by the International Nickel Company, (Mond), United Kingdom, in popularising a quality label for jobs having the minimum required thickness of nickel (This Bulletin Vol 8, 78, 1960). A similar or suitable quality marking should be adopted in our country with a view to enabling our metal finishing industries adopt the latest developments so that consumer gets the benefits of the technical advances in the field of metal finishing.

— S. K.