emanating from animals and people, some of the gaseous constituents of combustion, alcohols, ketones, esters, and gaseous products of putrefaction. The selective action of charcoal with a mixture of water vapor and organic gases is shown in Fig. 4.

Charcoals differ widely in their adsorptive capacity. Those which have marked adsorption characteristics, such as properly prepared coconut shell charcoals, are sometimes called *activated charcoals* or *activated carbon*. These materials can adsorb approximately 50 per cent of their own weight of many organic gases at 70 F. The charcoal may be used for a long time by reactivation at high temperatures, under which condition it gives up the adsorbed gases. Temperatures of approximately 1000 F are desirable for reactivation. Charcoals for use in air handling systems should be able to stand physical handling, including reactivation, without excessive loss by breakage or dusting.

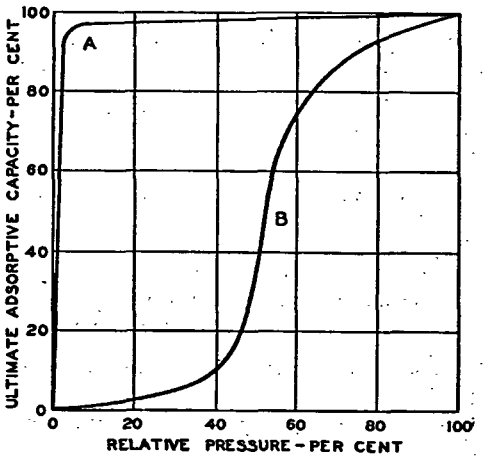

FIG. 4. ADSORPTION AT RELATIVE PRESSURES BY CHARCOAL OF A TYPICAL ORGANIC GAS (A) AND WATER VAPOR (B)

As applied in air handling systems, the charcoal is placed in perforated metal containers which are grouped in frames and set in the air stream. The percentage removal of an organic gas, such as carbon tetrachloride, is 95 per cent or above when placed in intimate contact with the carbon at 70 F. In commercial apparatus there may be a by-pass effect which depends on the physical arrangement of the charcoal containers. This by-passing reduces the percentage removed in the total gas passing through the adsorber. Resistance to air flow is usually selected within the general range of resistance of impingement filters.

The required quantity of recirculated air to be treated is determined by the requirements for contaminant-free air, minus the outdoor air, divided by the fraction denoting the percentage removal of the gas in question in the adsorber bank which is to be used.

Adsorbers may be applied to reduce objectionable gases entering through the outdoor air inlet. They may also be used to reduce the odors caused by exhausts from processing. Adsorber beds, in all cases, should be protected from dust, free oil and grease.

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