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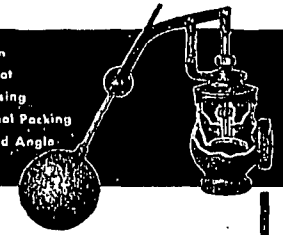

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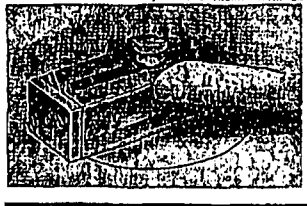

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WATER TREATMENT

Continued from page 221

sulfite to eliminate the last traces of oxygen from the feedwater. This chemical renders the residual oxygen inactive by converting it into its sulfate form, which is highly soluble and non-scale-producing. Sodium sulfite can become objectionable only when it takes a considerable amount to clean up after inadequate deaeration. The main objections are that it (1) is slow in its reaction (2) increases the sodium sulfate content of the boiler water, which results in additions to the sodium alkelinity and total dissolved concentrations of the water.

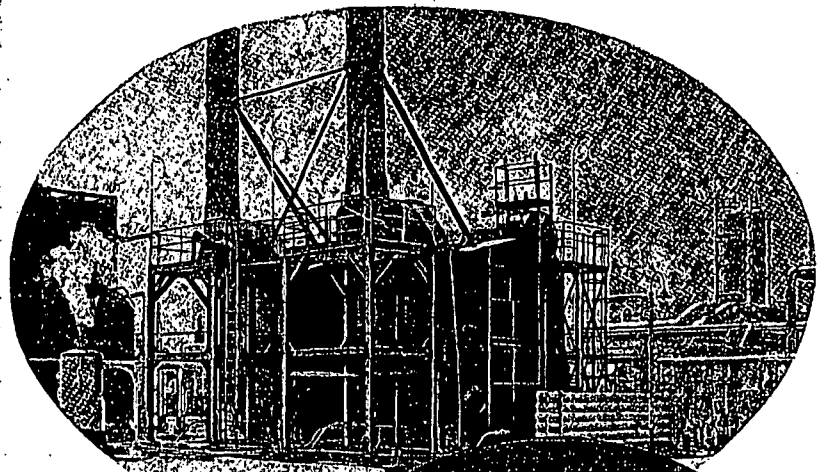
For proper control of oxygen correction, test boiler water periodically as warranted by operating conditions. Always carry a slight excess of sulfite as a precautionary measure.

Internal Treatment. The combined calcium and magnesium dissolved ingredients of a water constitute its total hardness. As previously discussed, (in January and April scale-formation articles) we certainly want to avoid having (1) magnesium precipitate out in the boiler as silicate or sulfate, or (2) calcium appear in the form of either carbonate, sulfate or silicate, because all are scale producers.

Various mechanical devices have been offered for averting scale formation, but they prove limited in scope. So far, chemical means give best results and a vast variety of boiler compounds are available. To date, however, the phosphate-organic type of treatment correctly applied ranks as the most effective. But, like any other, it needs help in the way of proper supervision and competent advice in difficulty.

Any of a score of sodium-phosphate compounds, from the simple meta form to the complex poly-phosphates, work well, either alone or in combination. Their particular selection depends on the nature of your conditioning problem, particularly whether a reduction or increase in alkalinity is sought for the boiler water. The monosodium and meta-phosphates are acidic, disodium is fairly alkaline, the complex phosphates for the most part are more so, while trisodium is strongly basic.

We suggest you avoid the use of an alkali entirely, or hold it to a bare minimum. Desired alkallnity range should be reached by precalculated proportioning of the various phosphates. When needed, you can use soda ash. But, while this chemical is a mild alkali and lends itself to easy control, it furnishes additional carbon dioxide to the steam upon undergoing breakdown in the boiler water. This gas, we know, can be quite corrosive in the return system.



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