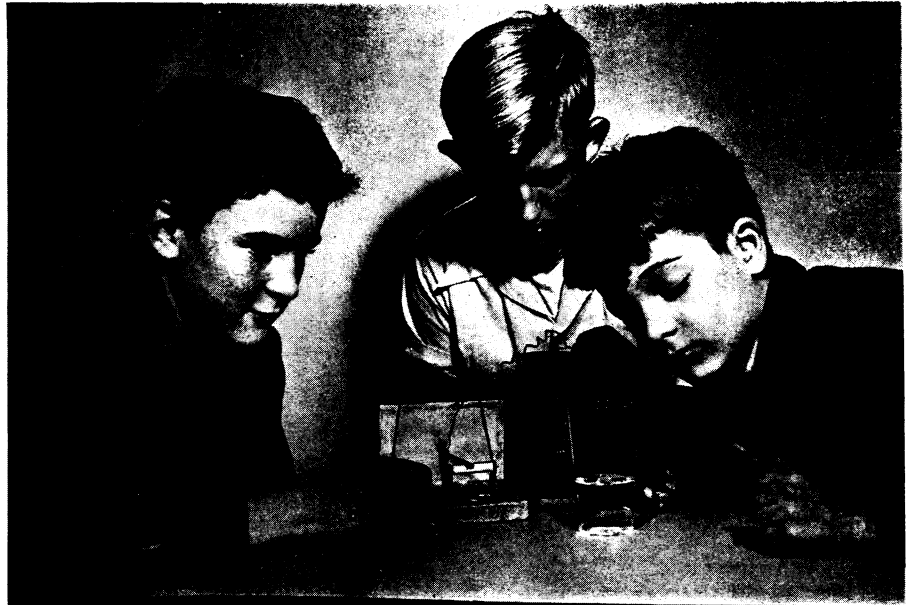


lamp and phonograph. The latter was so revolutionary that never before Edison developed his phonograph had the idea for an apparatus to reproduce the human voice been put into a patent application.

Apart from the actual inventions by the man born 100 years ago lie pioneer work in motion pictures, the vacuum tube of radio and electronics, and important developments in the telephone transmitter, telegraphy and the perfecting of some of his own original inventions.

Many myths surround the life of Edison. His deafness, credited by the inventor with aiding his work, is sometimes said to have come when an irate train conductor boxed his ears after the boy had set fire to a train in an improvised chemical laboratory in an empty car. Actually the injury occurred when he attempted to mount a moving train and was pulled aboard by his ears.

His long hours of work with only four to six hours of sleep a night amazed his friends. Asked about his philosophy of life a few years before his death, Edison said it was, "Work—bringing out the secrets of nature and applying them for the happiness of man." And he added, "Looking on the bright side of every-



EDISON EXPERIMENT—Junior scientists use a piece of chalk, a dry cell battery and a glass of water to learn about reducing friction with an electric current.

thing." Edison was caught by a photographer in a rare moment of relaxation shortly before his death and the picture is shown on the cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

One of his last projects helped to answer today's demand for scientists and the need for encouraging young scientists. In 1929, Edison brought 49 promising youths to his famous laboratory. They were given tests, with a scholarship prize to the winner. Today elaborate projects, such as the nation-wide Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships, are conducted among teen-age scientists.

Modern science does not leave young men with the talents of Edison to pursue their own course without the support of the best collaborators and equipment known. Many minds are now at work building on foundations Thomas Alva Edison helped to erect.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1947

CHEMISTRY

Process Reduces Loss Of Element Selenium

➤ **REDUCING WASTE** of the rather costly element selenium when it is added to molten glass for the purpose of obtaining a tinted product, is the objective of patent 2,414,413, issued to A. E. Pavlish and C. R. Austin of Columbus, Ohio, assignors to the Battelle Memorial Institute. Adding an oxidizable sili-

con compound along with the selenium prevents most of the loss through volatilization that occurs when selenium is put in alone.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1947

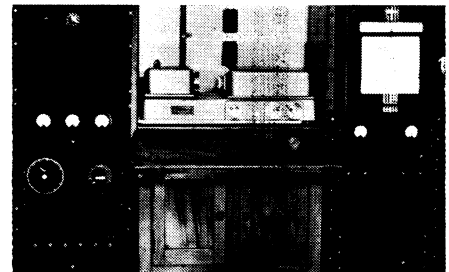


Photo Courtesy Standard Oil Dev. Co.

INFRA-RED SPECTRA Recorded By Speedomax G

The equipment shown above, in an oil company's research lab, makes many analyses which would be nearly impossible by other means. The recording instrument is a Speedomax Type G, which follows quickly and accurately the output of a Perkin-Elmer spectrometer. Its speed and sensitivity are ample for most spectrometry uses, and input filter design keeps pick-up troubles small. For details about Speedomax G, ask for Catalog ND-46(1).

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