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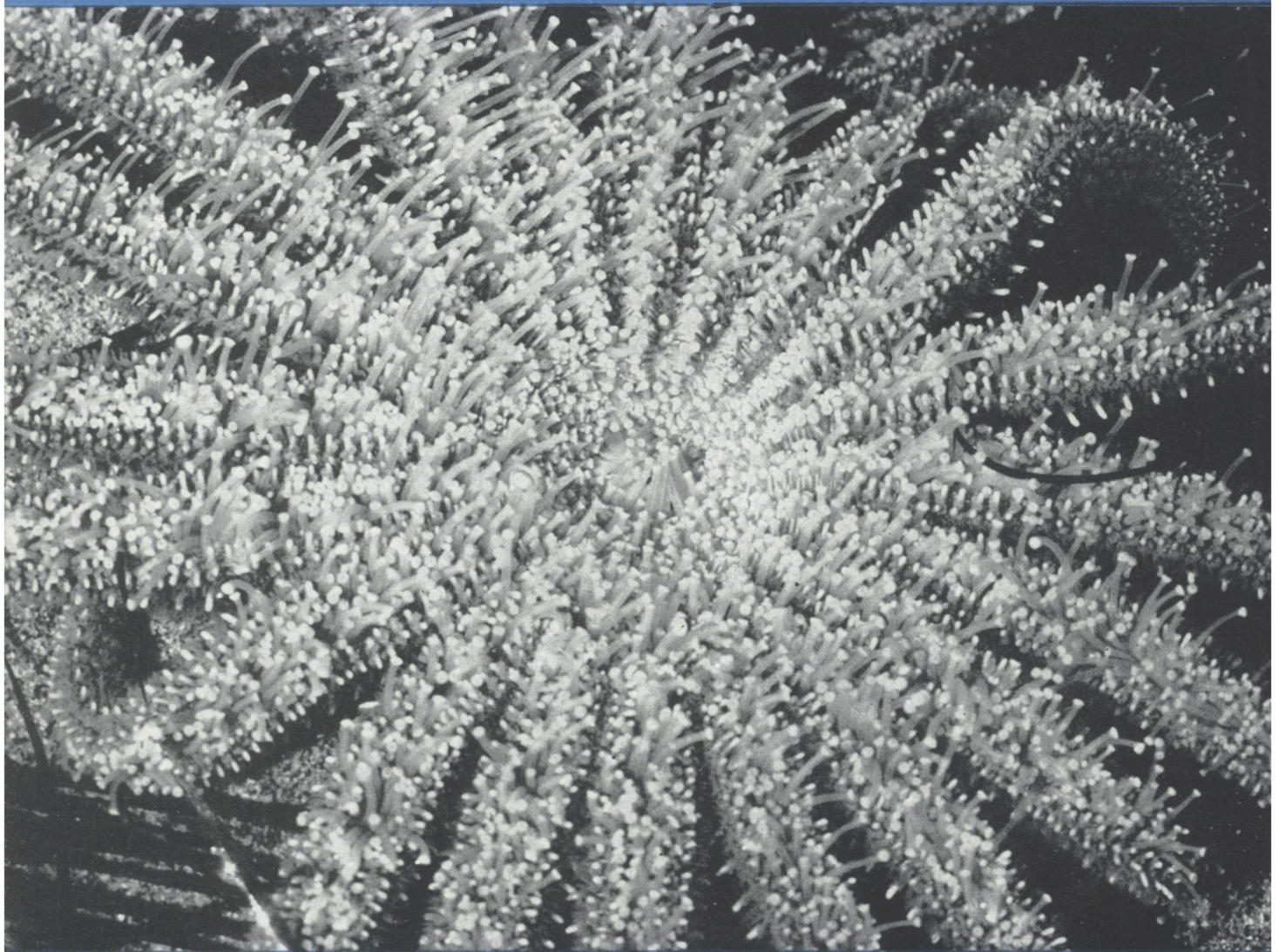
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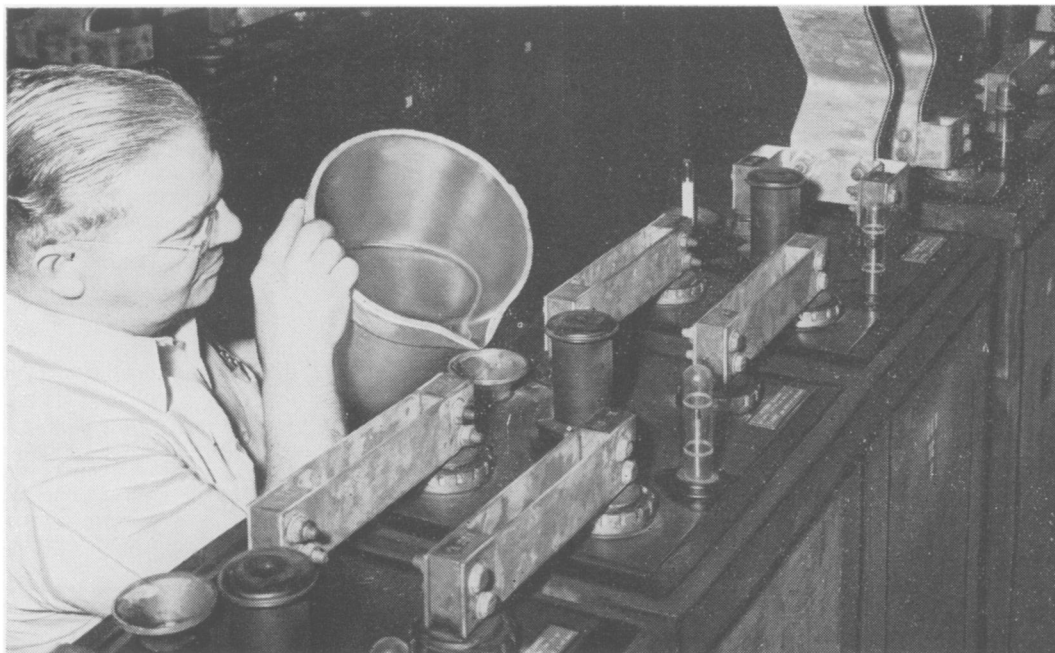
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How a whiff of stibine led toward lower telephone costs

At the New York Telephone Company's Triangle exchange in Brooklyn, emergency batteries stand ready to deliver 3000 amperes for several hours.

In the Bell System there are a million lead storage battery cells connected to telephone circuits in the central offices. Current seldom flows in or out of these cells beyond the trickle which keeps them charged. In the rare event of power failure, however, they stand ready to supply the current for your telephone service.

Even in this stand-by service, cells require water to make up for electrolysis. And they consume power and eventually wear out. But Bell Laboratories chemists discovered how to make a battery which lasts many more years and requires less attention — by changing a single ingredient, the clue to which came unexpectedly from another line of their research.

The clue was a minute trace of stibine gas in battery rooms — detected by electrochemists looking into atmospheric causes of relay contact corrosion. In small traces the gas was harmless but it gave chemists a useful hint.

For stibine is a compound of antimony — and antimony is used to harden the lead grids which serve as mechanical supports for a battery's active materials. Tracing the stibine, the chemists discovered that antimony is leached out of the positive grid and enters into chemical reactions which hasten self-discharge and shorten battery life.

Meanwhile, in the field of cable sheath research Bell metallurgists had discovered that calcium could be used instead of antimony to harden lead. And theory showed that calcium would not react destructively in a battery. The result is the new long-life calcium-lead battery which cuts battery replacement costs, goes for months without additional water, and needs but $\frac{1}{5}$ the trickle current to keep its charge.

It demonstrates again how diverse lines of research come together at Bell Telephone Laboratories to keep down the cost of telephone service.

BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES

Working continually to keep your telephone service big in value and low in cost.

