

combination with more conventional air conditioning, can add to the human comforts now achieved by cooling the inside of buildings; at best, however, such interior air cleaning is only an intermediate step toward the ultimate objective of keeping the outside air clean.

#### POLLUTION FROM INSECT CONTROL METHODS

Without getting into that argument about "changing the balance of nature," I should like to point out that chemistry is such a versatile and adaptable science that an intensified effort in insect-control research should permit us, in effect, to have our cake and eat it, too. A recent example of a successful chemical effort to eliminate the bad while keeping the good was the solving of the detergent problem: using new chemistry to create the new soft detergents without in any way diminishing their unique cleaning powers. I have every confidence that, with sufficient research effort, it will be possible to improve substantially our health environment through improved "soft" insecticides and alternative methods of insect control.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

One of the most intriguing ideas stemming from recent research in microbiology is the prospect of using biological processes to convert domestic sewage into two valuable products: water pure enough for drinking, and a high-protein feed for animals. Extensive fundamental research must be accomplished before this prospect becomes practical reality.

#### COMBUSTION RESEARCH

Unburned fuels are part of our aerial garbage, along with unwanted combustion products. There are opportunities in the areas of altering and improving the fuels used, not only in automobiles, but also in powerplants and countless other industrial and domestic coal- and oil-burning sources of combustion pollutants. New knowledge about basic combustion processes is giving us new hope for simultaneously improving efficiently and reducing unwanted effluents.

In our own company, of course, we are highly interested in central station electric power generating plants of all types: hydro, fossil fuel, and nuclear. Although we do not manufacture the part of the equipment in a coal-burning station which involves combustion products, as major contributors to the total station—through turbines and generators and other equipment—we are naturally concerned about alleviating the pollution potential of the total system.

Thus, we have been actively engaged in combustion research for many years, and we are actively seeking ways to reduce unwanted effluents from the fossil-fuel plants which are the mainstay of today's electric power system in this country. These problems are extremely difficult and complex; much progress has been made over the years, and recently built stations are far superior to older powerplants. Additional progress should be possible, but the economic aspects must not be underestimated.

It is only natural, when faced with the problems inherent in fossil fuels, to think about other energy sources. Hydroelectric power is