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Mobile Plant for the Preparation of Drinking Water

During earthquakes and other natural catastrophes, the water supply services of a region are very often destroyed. It becomes necessary in such cases to process the water needed from rivers and lakes, in order to prevent any danger of epidemics. The Swiss firm of Sulzer Bros. Co. Ltd. (Winterthur—Zurich) has produced for these disaster areas, a new mobile plant for the preparation of drinking water from subterranean waters and polluted surface waters (maximum capacity 4000 l/h). The processing plant, housed in a container made according to international standards, comprises units for pre-oxidation, flocculation, multi-layer filtration, adsorption and sterilisation. In addition, it comprises a tank for the storage of the water processed and the reserves of washing water as well as the coupling and control equipment. The plant is supplied with power either from an external source of current or by a built-in emergency unit. So that the water thus treated may be issued under hygienic conditions, the plant is offered with a packaging machine. The water is poured directly into plastic bags, or mixed with powdered milk before filling and thus supplied in the form of milk. The packaging machine is housed in a second mobile container. This combination of a processing plant and a packaging machine, made for the first time in a portable version, makes it possible to supply the population of disaster areas rapidly with drinking water or milk of impeccable quality.—(SODT)

Aluminium Coating Plant

A firm in Liechtenstein, specialising in vacuum processes, presented the latest model from its range of vacuum coating plants at the Electronica Fair 74, held in Munich last November. This is a special plant for vacuum coating semi-conductors with aluminium, for the production of contacts and conductive tracks. Due to the refrigerator cryo pump, this plant has a "dry" pumping system offering not only a "clean" vacuum and low working pressure, but far shorter working cycles than any conventional pumping system. In addition, this plant is equipped with a 15 kW electron beam evaporator with built-in rate regulation. This regulation device considerably reduces running costs, because after an initial calibration, evaporation can be carried out without having to change a measuring element, e.g. the quartz crystal. Operating this plant is very simple; the planetary holder is easily removed, and faulty operation is practically impossible owing to the fully automatic system. — (SODT)