X LABORATORY FACILITIES

The largest laboratory building (96) had apparently been used for general testing and analytical work. Although the upper part of the building had been badly damaged by bombing, the basement was intact and was well stocked with glassware and chemicals. One private laboratory in the basement had been left as used and all documents therein were examined carefully. In the basement corridors other miscellaneous collections of documents were found and examined. However, no formal research note books or reports were discovered, and the records of greatest value had evidently been shipped away. Two carloads of boxed laboratory equipment and chemicals were found on sidings in the plant but as far as they were examined they yielded no research records.

Building 97 was the automotive engine testing laboratory but no information could be obtained about the work done there except by inspection of the remaining equipment. Two small four cylinder engines were found on test stands without dynamometers. Two dynamometer stands were in the same room without engines. There was no chassis dynamometer. In another room were three stands which probably previously accommodated CFR or IG knock test engines. There was no indication of equipment for supercharged knock testing.

Building 120 and a new building southwest of it, which does not show on the aerial map, were stated to be used for research on lubricants and fats but the informants professed to be entirely ignorant of the details of the work carried out there. The personnel had been moved to an unknown destination about a month previously and no records were found in either building. Among the chemists engaged in this work were Drs. Kolbel, Ackerman, and Langheim.

Building 120 was used for small scale research but the only pieces of apparatus which had survived the bombing were four small heavily insulated units which seemed to involve thermo syphon circulation of a liquid downward through a vertical reactor by means of a heated external return line. A view "through" this laboratory is shown in Fig. 27, page 81.

In the adjacent new building operations were obviously on a larger scale but likewise difficult to identify from the remaining apparatus. The equipment included a batch still of approximately 100 gal. capacity surmounted by a fractionating column about 1 ft. in diameter and 20 ft high. There was also a rotating drum about 3x3 ft. with a scraper which might have been

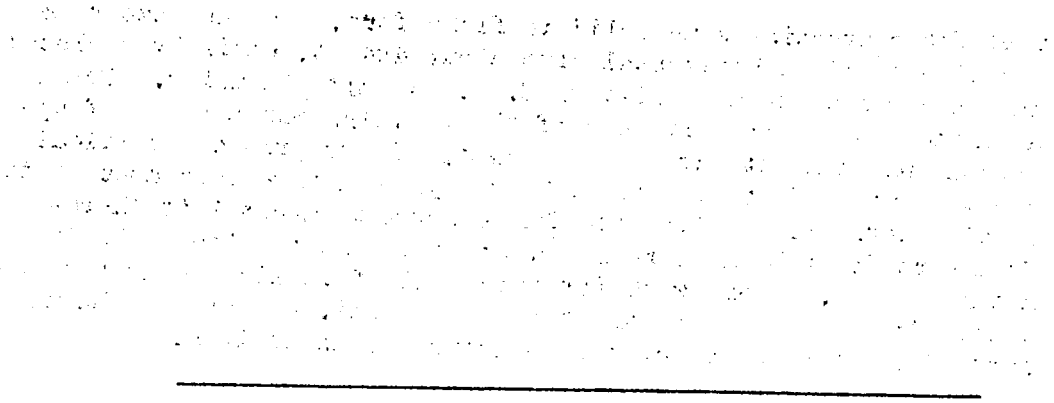

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Figure 27.

View through new Research Laboratory.

used for converting some solid to flake form. In the same room was direct driven horizontal drum about 4x4 ft. entirely enclosed in a heavy housing and built by C. G. Haubolt, Chemnitz. Being assembled in the opposite end of the building was a piece of apparatus which might have been a dryer. It comprised a vertical shaft about 10 ft tall carrying two squirrel cage fans about 6 ft in diameter. Surrounding the fan and spaced about 4 ft therefrom were fin-tube heaters and a frame to enclose the whole in a metal housing. Frame work for some kind of inclined conveyor extended from the floor to the top of the unit, and around the upper part of the fan was a helical structure of angle iron.