

hydrogenation existing within the molecular sieve structure. Both poisoning curves are typical of those found with pore mouth poisoning (15), but are unique in demonstrating the high resistance of the catalyst to large poison molecules.

These novel Johnson Matthey catalysts, therefore, are both highly selective in their catalytic action and highly resistant to large poison molecules. They would therefore appear to be comparable to zeolitic systems, which are finding a growing number of commercial applications. They do possess several advantages over zeolites both in the inherent advantages of the use of a carbonaceous support outlined previously, and also they are easily adapted for use as a composite catalyst with any solid catalytic material. They also offer several interesting possibilities in that the composite preparation offers a potential method for more precise control of the commercial activated carbons commonly used as catalyst supports.

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## Platinum Metal Coatings for Stereoscan Specimens

The Stereoscan electron microprobe system produced by Cambridge Instruments Limited eliminates much time-consuming specimen preparation work associated with, for example, transmission electron microscopy. Specimen preparation generally involves only drying, fixing on to the specimen stub and rendering the specimen conductive by evaporating a metal layer, e.g. 300 to 500 Å gold-palladium alloy, on to it to prevent charge formation without masking the surface detail and impairing resolution.

Workers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, under the direction of Professor A. W. Woodruff, have now used rhodium vapour in this way to obtain excellent Stereoscan pictures of the surface of *Toxocara canis* larvae, which occur in the intestines of dogs. Larvae which arise in man from the eggs of *Toxocara canis* burrow into the human intestine wall and are carried by the bloodstream to organs such as the eye, where damage may occur. They also predispose man to virus infections such as poliomyelitis.

