Testing the Pulsator

It is important to ascertain just how a pulsator is functioning. This is most

readily done by the use of a recording vacuum gauge. A suitable instrument has been worked out at Wallaceville.

and the accompanying figures show the type of graph obtained when the vacuum at the pulsator nipples of the claw is recorded

Firstly, let us consider Fig. 7. In this diagram the vertical axis OY represents vacuum and OX represents time (the direction of motion of the tracing pencil is shown by the arrows). The graph represents the way in which the vacuum would vary in a perfect pulsator system operating at a 50:50 ratio, that is one-half of the total cycle is occupied by the squeeze phase, and one-half by the release.

In all subsequent references to pulsator ratio we shall mean the ratio duration of squeeze phase/duration of release phase. Sometimes the reciprocal ratio is used, but for convenience we shall always employ the above.

The curvature of the "vertical" portions of the graph is due to the use of a recording instrument employing a simple arm with no correction for parallel motion. This is no disadvantage in the graph provided it is borne in mind when reading it, and it simplifies the instrument considerably.

Pulsator Ratio

Theoretically, the pulsator ratio is the ratio of the area BCDE to the area ABEF. In the ideal case this is equal to the ratio BC:AB, and for most practical purposes we may take the latter. In Figs. 8 (a, b, c) we see three different pulsator ratios:—

a = 40:60b = 30:70

c = 60:40

The "snappiness" of the pulsator is indicated by the sharpness of the angles at A, B, C, D, E, and F. In a poor pulsator these angles become

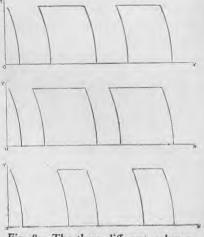


Fig. 8.—The three different pulsator ratios.



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