FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The growth of the fabrication industry in general, and maintenance of plants and machineries, cutting and cladding, hardfacing and other reclamation processes have generated a demand for welding equipment (power source) which can achieve quality deposition at ever faster rate with flexibility of operation. In the development of semi-automatic and mechanised processes such as MIG/MAG, some of the important achievements have been the greater rate and quality of weld metal deposition at improved power utilisation. Utility based compact, multi-functional power sources have functional advantages related to productivity. These have been discussed lucidly by Mr. M. P. Dhanuka in his paper "Latest trends in welding equipments and consumables" which many of us would find very informative and relevant.

Selection of material for high temperature steam piping is invariably and understandably related to service temperature. Higher the temperature more critical becomes the selection of alloy content of the material with concomitant characteristics of mechanical and oxidation resistance properties. The problem has been disussed by Mr. P. K. Saha in his paper "New materials for high temperature steam piping", which would be of interest to both welding and material engineers.

In the study of "Arc efficiency during pulse TIG welding of aluminium and mild steel", the authors S. R. Gupta et al report on characteritics of heat efficiency in TIG welding of two different alloy systems utilising the trusted method of calorimetry. R&D personnel would find such technique, even under quasi-sophisticated laboratory conditions, yielding useful data.

In the third and last part of his paper, the author R. S. Chandel elaborates on "Hardfacing consumables and their characteristics for minimg and mineral processing industries." In highlighting AWS classification system for hardfacing alloys, for example, chemistry and metallurgy have been skilfully interspersed with wear resisting mechanical properties of the deposit – a user friendly guideline.

Characteristics of surface properties of components with laid on hard surfacing for reclamation of old used up component surfaces or, for that matter, of new components to be subjected to wear and environmental attack in service, together with life performance evaluation are discussed critically in the paper "Studies on oxidation... alloy powder" authored by P. K. Ghosh et al, where interesting R&D areas are also underscored.

As the year 2000 comes to an end we enter the new millennium feeling very happy for the significant event that took place in the recent past i.e. the **recognition of AMIIW by MHRD** – at last our sustained collective effort has won. This is indeed a success story and we now have to think about reaping the benefits of the recognition. **The big event IWC-2001, as you must be aware, is closing in fast - 15 to 17th February, 2001 at New Delhi.** Its details are in the centre pages and no doubt all our members realise that the Conference would provide the right opportunity and forum for global level information on the developments in Welding & Cutting Technology.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Thank you,

Dr. P. Majumdar

— Editor