

## Automatic Rat-Catcher Circuit

AUTOMATIC electrocution of rats and other rodents is accomplished by the machine illustrated in the accompanying photograph. It is designed to be placed on a rat runway in a factory building in the food or other industry having a general sanitation problem.

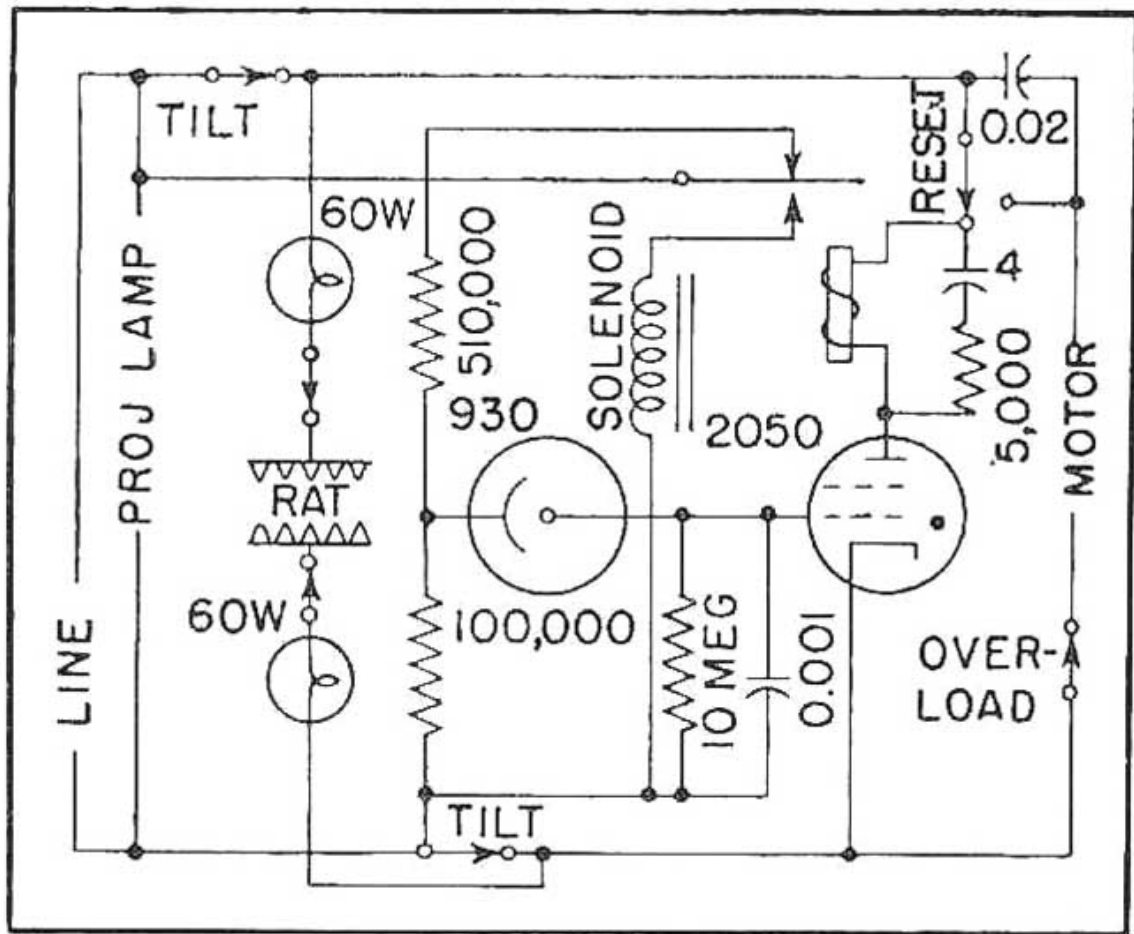
The unit illustrated is normally contained inside a metal case that is open at each bottom end to provide the rat runway. When a rodent enters the runway he intercepts a beam of light from a projec-

tion lamp that shines into a phototube on the other side of the runway. The phototube triggers a 2050 thyratron, shown in the circuit diagram, which fires and energizes a relay that connects the line voltage to a solenoid. This in turn trips two metal grids having pointed projections and the grids snap together and hold the rat firmly.

The grids are maintained at the

voltage of the power line (through the series 60-watt lamps) and the potential is applied to the rat for a lethal period of about 120 seconds. When electrocution is completed, the rat is lifted, still held by the grids, to a door at the side of the metal case which opens to allow ejection. A motor-driven mechanism carries out this ejection and resetting cycle in 30 seconds. At the end of the cycle, the grids return to the ready or arming position and the ejection door closes.

During ejection, the plate voltage is removed from the 2050 thyratron and when the cycle is completed this connection is restored so that the tube is ready to be triggered by another pulse from the phototube, in turn caused by another rat. The technique is said to cause the rodent no pain, mutilation or frightened struggle by the manufacturers of the machine, LFC Corporation, Rochester, N. Y.



Circuit of the rodent electrocution machine

