ing can be effected in any suitable vessel, for example a quartz tube through which hydrogen is flowed during sintering. The sintering process results in a continuous mass of silicon (including the rod 7 when present) as compared with a body of discrete particles compacted together. Fig. 2 shows the body 6 of discrete compacted silicon particles 8, in which is embedded the rod 7, produced by the method of the invention and Fig. 3 shows the same body 6 following the sintering process described above. In both Figs. 2 and 3 it will be noted that the body 6 contains closed pores 9.

The compacting process described above can, for example, be utilised in the manufacture of solid electrolytic capacitors described in copending Application No. 38859/63 (Serial No. 1066847).

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A method of compacting small silicon particles, including the steps of placing a large number of such particles in an elongated flexible sleeve free of substances which would contaminate the silicon particles, closing each end of the sleeve, enclosing the closed sleeve within a flexible bag and subjecting them both to hydrostatic pressure of sufficient magnitude to compress the particles contained in the sleeve into a compacted mass of silicon.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which the sleeve is closed by stoppers placed in both ends of the sleeve.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the said hydrostatic pressure is in the range 10,000 to 60,000 p.s.i.

4. A method of compacting small silicon particles substantially as described herein with reference to Fig. 1 of the accompanying drawings.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the compacted mass of silicon is sintered to bond the compacted silicon particles to each other.

6. A silicon mass produced by a method according to any one of the preceding claims.

ABEL & IMRAY,
Chartered Patent Agents,
Quality House, Quality Court,
Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

BK

Leamington Spa: Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by the Courier Press.
—1967. Published by The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2,
from which copies may be obtained.

To Be deleted.