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THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNT RUMFORD AND MICHAEL FARADAY TO THE MODERN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE¹

By Sir WILLIAM BRAGG

DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION AND OF THE FARADAY RESEARCH LABORATORY

I AM told that I must say something about the "Diary of Michael Faraday," a book which we treasure at the Royal Institution. I would like to say a word or two about that at first but, as a matter of fact, I hope you will allow me to use it rather as a text for a somewhat larger subject, that is, the work that you and we are jointly trying to do.

Faraday's diary is indeed a most interesting document. It is contained in seven or eight large volumes of manuscript which have never been published. It is a record of his doings day by day. All his experimental work was collected by him from time to time and students in electricity know these papers and books

of his quite well. But the diary is something more—it is the record day by day of what he thought, what work he was doing. It is a very human, very interesting document. He almost talks to us as he sits by night recording what happened to him during the day. Sometimes there is delight at having achieved success in an experiment, and sometimes a little fit of depression, as when he says, "So after all, that which I thought was a new discovery was only an accident." Sometimes he deliberately writes out an ordered plan for his next work. He uses some such phrases as: "So, if this takes place, the consequences should be. . . Then I must try. . ."

¹ Address given by Sir William Henry Bragg at a science luncheon given in his honor at the Hotel Astor on May 27, 1930, by the Museums of the Peaceful Arts, the American Institute and the New York Electrical Society.

I assure you it is a most interesting book, and I trust the Royal Institution will succeed in publishing part of it next year. And then I hope that you all



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(cf.—Osborne & Harris, Jr. Am. Chem. Soc., 25-IV, 346)

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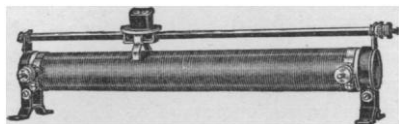
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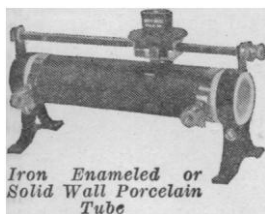
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