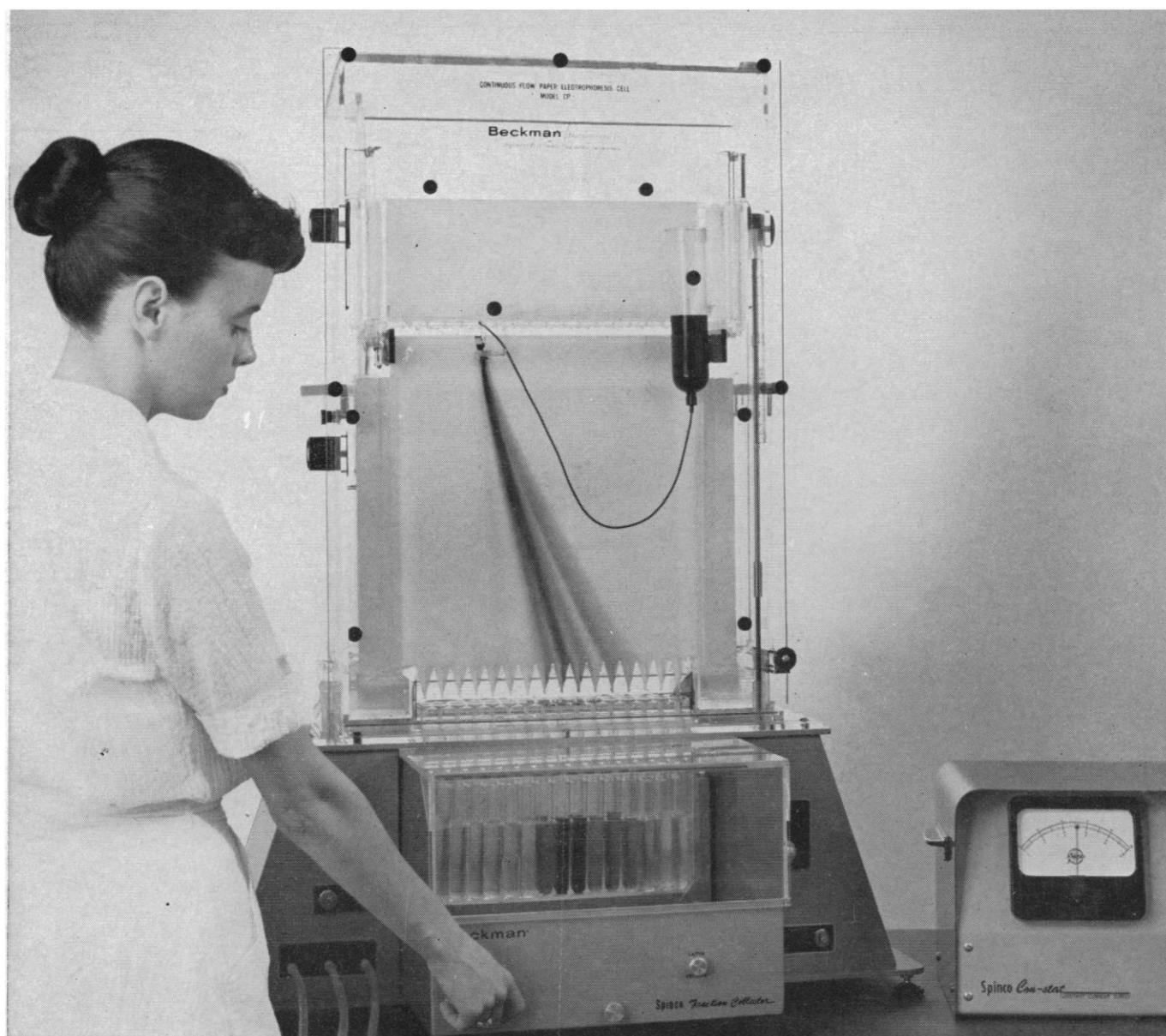


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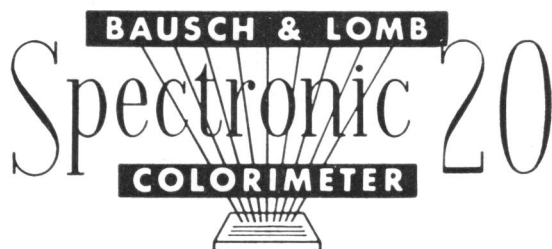
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presented in 11 chapters, divided according to subjects from metallurgy to fermentations, and illustrated by 34 figures and 10 plates, many of them containing two pictorial presentations, from a variety of sources. The second part, which brings the total number of figures to 62 and that of plates to 22, contains long chapters on the history of scientific chemistry and leaves insufficient space for discussion of the special industrial aspects. The author argues in the preface that he makes "no apology for the introduction of much that is ordinarily regarded as belonging to the history of chemical theory rather than to that of the industrial or applied aspects of the subject." No apology would have been necessary if he had shown the connections and influences between science and industry in their development. Instead, Taylor leaves the two parts quite separate. His history of chemical industries becomes a catalog of industrial chemicals. Very little is said about the methods of production or about equipment and materials of construction, and almost nothing is said about the many other sides of the chemical industry, such as organization, markets, size of production, or financial matters. Within these severe limitations, the author attempts to describe all groups of industrial chemicals and even includes a chapter on "The Road to Nuclear Power."

Scarcely any typographical errors and only a few errors of fact are to be found in Taylor's book. In some instances important names are omitted while others are given, and some condensations are so worded that they could be easily misunderstood.

An appendix, "not intended to be a bibliography of industrial chemistry," lists 227 publications suggested for further reading.

In spite of its shortcomings, Taylor's posthumous book may well stimulate greater interest in the history of an important part of our civilization.

EDUARD FARBER

Washington, D.C.

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