

In his review of the factors concerned with the duration of pregnancy Snyder² has pointed out that parturition is under endocrine control. King³ and others have shown that an extract of pregnancy urine will prolong the gestation period in the rat. It has been known for some time that urine from women afflicted with certain tumors such as hydatidiform mole and chorionepithelioma reacts positively in pregnancy tests. Also urine from men suffering from teratoma

of the skin of the testes gives positive results in this test. It would seem, then, that these embryonic implants also secrete a chemical substance which is similar to the prolactin contained in pregnancy urine, and as a result the presence of this tissue in the body affects the gestation period in the same manner as the injection of pregnancy prolactin.

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SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

AN ARRANGEMENT OF APPARATUS FOR THE ISOLATION OF MONOCHROMATIC LIGHT OF HIGH INTENSITY AT $\lambda, 254 \text{ m}\mu^1$

WHEN monochromatic light is isolated by a monochromator, focal isolation or an optical train using filters, the light available for photochemical work represents only a small fraction of the total light produced by the source at that wavelength. This has been overcome sometimes by placing the actinic system, to be studied, in a vessel which surrounded both the light source and a suitable filter. Such an ensemble, however, requires that the volume of the actinic system be large unless the absorbing layer is made unduly thin. Sometimes the filter has been dispensed with and the actinic system allowed to contact the light source; but then, temperature control has been troublesome. The arrangement of apparatus given in Fig. 1 overcomes some of these difficulties by working in from the light source—in this case, a mercury "resonance" lamp. Any other source, however, may be used if it operates in a similar environment.

The lamp was constructed of quartz tubing coiled cylindrically like one previously used at M. I. T. to produce Raman spectra.² It differed from that lamp by having the axis of the coil parallel to the electrodes rather than perpendicular to them. This modification permitted the lamp to operate in a conducting liquid, such as water, with the axis of the coil vertical and the electrodes dry. Stray light from the tubing extending beyond the coil was eliminated by wrapping these parts in aluminum foil. The coil consisted of four complete turns of 1 cm tubing, which formed a cylinder 7 cm i.d. and 8 cm high. The electrodes were iron cylinders coated with a mixture of the carbonates of Ba, Ca and Sr. These carbonates were subsequently decomposed by being heated in a vacuum with an induction furnace, followed by flushing the red-hot

electrodes and quartz tubing with a discharge through hydrogen. The cold lamp was then filled with argon at a pressure of 1 cm of mercury, and after introducing about half a gram of mercury the lamp was sealed while a discharge was passed through. It was lighted by a transformer rated to deliver 120 milliamperes at 5,000 volts when connected to a 110-volt A. C. line. The leads from the secondary were made as short as possible and were well insulated.

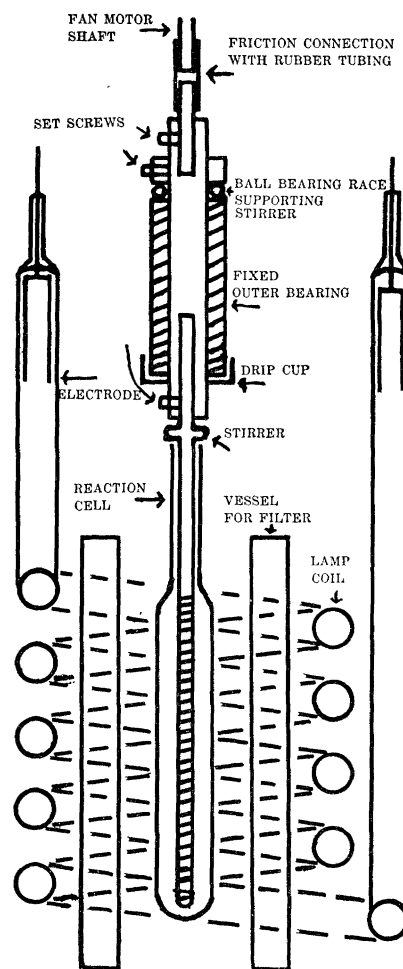


FIG. 1

² *Physiol. Rev.*, 18: 578, 1938.

³ *Am. Jour. Physiol.*, 122: 455, 1938.

¹ Contribution from the Research Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, No. 430.

² Harris, Ashdown and Armstrong, *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 58: 852, 1936.

Within the lamp coil was centered a cylindrical quartz vessel (3.5 cm i.d. and 10 cm high), which contained between its walls a 1 cm layer of dry chlorine at 1 atmosphere. This layer of chlorine absorbed 94 per cent. of 297 and 366 m μ and even more of the light between these wave-lengths.³ Glacial acetic acid (reagent quality) was discolored when it was used as a filter for several days and then absorbed strongly λ , 254 m μ . It was not improved when refluxed over chromic anhydride (reagent quality) and then distilled in vacuum.

The system to be illuminated was placed in a quartz reaction cell centered on the axis of the light filter, so that the lamp light could reach the cell only by passing through the filter.

The lamp reached equilibrium with its surroundings after it had been lighted half an hour. When it was stopped momentarily to introduce a new cell, equilibrium was reestablished by relighting the lamp ten minutes before illuminating the photo-sensitive system. Subsequent fluctuations in the light intensity then remained within less than 5 per cent. over at least twenty hours.

Ultra-violet light reaching the reaction cell was over 95 per cent. of λ , 254 m μ , as observed from spectrograms of the light before and after it traversed the layers of chlorine and water. Other observations⁴ have shown that a mercury resonance lamp emits light which is over 82 per cent. of λ , 254 m μ . When the lamp was operated in air, an odor of ozone was produced by light at λ , 185 m μ and shorter wave-lengths;⁵ but the 2 cm layer of water, between the lamp and reaction cell, absorbed this light as well as most of the infrared.⁶ Visible light reaching the reaction cell usually can be ignored by properly adjusting the concentrations of the light-absorbing species when their extinction coefficients are greater at λ , 254 m μ than in the visible.

The light flux was measured with the dilute solutions of uranyl oxalate recommended for use as actinometers.⁷ These solutions were stirred with a thin ribbon of transparent quartz in the form of a screw turning at more than 500 r.p.m. Care was taken not to let a large fraction of the actinic light reach the stirrer in order to avoid the difficulties of evaluating corrections for scattered light, particularly when the reaction under investigation depended upon the light intensity. To realize this the stirrer was kept half a

centimeter from the part of the cell wall holding the solution. Here, the cell was 1.3 cm i.d. and 8 cm long; one end was fused shut and the other end was fused to 6 cm of .7 cm quartz tubing to minimize evaporation of the actinic solution. The volume of the solution, in this case, happened to be 11 cc, but smaller or larger volumes also would have intercepted the light fluxes given below, merely by changing the diameter of the cell and, if necessary, that of the stirrer. A light-proof aluminum tube that slipped over the cell acted as a shutter. The temperature was controlled by regulating the temperature and rate of flow of the air or water surrounding the lamp, filter and the reaction cell.

When the ensemble was used in air, 5×10^{19} photons of λ , 254 m μ were incident per minute on the actinometer; in distilled water there were 4×10^{19} photons; and in running Cambridge tap water 10^{19} . These values of the light flux in air and distilled water are over two hundred times greater than the light flux that has been obtained at λ , 254 m μ from a monochromator.⁸ The light intensity was diminished further, when desired, by surrounding the filter with a wire gauze of the proper mesh, and could be increased by winding the lamp coils closer together and surrounding them with polished aluminum or some other suitable mirror.

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⁸ Forbes and Brackett, *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 53: 3973, 1931.

Errata: In the article by Dr. H. Waelsch and Dr. D. Rittenberg entitled "The Metabolism of Glutathione," printed in the issue of SCIENCE for November 3, the last line on the second column on p. 423 should read "6 mg" of copper glutathione instead of "16 mg."

In the article by Drs. Casimir Funk and Ian Casimir Funk printed in the issue of SCIENCE for November 10, on p. 445, the last line of Table V, "I" Stilbestrol should read "II" Stilbestrol.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- EVE, A. S. *Rutherford*. Pp. xvi + 451. Illustrated. Macmillan. \$5.00.
 LOWENBERG, MIRIAM E. *Your Child's Food*. Pp. ix + 299. Illustrated. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill. \$2.50.
 MCMINN, HOWARD E. *An Illustrated Manual of California Shrubs*. Pp. ix + 689. 775 figures. J. W. Stacey, Inc., San Francisco. \$5.00.
 Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station. *Studies of Suburbanization in Connecticut; 3, Wilton; a Rural Town Near Metropolitan New York*, by NATHAN L. WHETTEN. Pp. 132. 19 figures. Connecticut State College.
 TWENHOFEL, W. H. *Principles of Sedimentation*. Pp. v + 610. 44 figures. McGraw-Hill. \$6.00.
 WHITTLESEY, DERWENT. *The Earth and the State; a Study of Political Geography*. Pp. iii + 618. 85 figures. Holt. \$3.75.

³ Gibson and Baylies, *Phys. Rev.*, 44: 188, 1933.

⁴ Avery and Forbes, *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 60: 1006, 1938; and Cline and Forbes, *ibid.*, 61: 716, 1939.

⁵ Flory, *Jour. Chem. Phys.*, 4: 23, 1936.

⁶ I. C. T., 5: 271.

⁷ Forbes and Heidt, *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 56: 2363, 1934. A more sensitive actinometer that can be used advantageously for very low light intensities has been studied carefully by Harris and Kaminsky, *ibid.*, 57: 1154, 1935.