

points) are entirely omitted. Nevertheless, the author's presentation of the basic material is lucid and professional and his book is a valuable addition to a field in which the number of treatises is surprisingly small.

The first two chapters of this text are devoted to equilibrium statistical mechanics of classical and quantum systems, respectively. The microcanonical, canonical, and grand canonical ensembles are introduced, their interrelationship is discussed, and their bearing on thermodynamic properties is established. We found the author's summary of the information theory approach to entropy and his discussion of the classical limit of quantum statistics to be especially illuminating. It should be mentioned that these two chapters are particularly concise, so that the student without a firm background in statistical physics will almost certainly require supplementary material. For example, the author does not discuss the ideal gas system, and the Boltzmann, Fermi, and Bose single-particle distribution functions do not appear explicitly in the text.

In chapter 3, Zubarev turns to an exposition of linear response theory. This is a subject that has been extensively developed in the past 25 years. It deals with disturbances in a system near absolute equilibrium. The magnitude of the disturbance is assumed to be negligibly small, but one is able to treat arbitrary wavelengths and frequencies. In particular, experiments on light and inelastic neutron scattering from fluids in the past decade have provided rich opportunities for the application of this theory. The formalism of the theory is very general, with results such as the Green-Kubo relations for susceptibilities, fluctuation-dissipation theorems, spectral representations, and frequency sum rules. The subject is put on a unified basis by use of the language of double time Green's functions. While Zubarev's exposition is clear and concise, the student would be well advised to read this chapter concurrently with other, more detailed expositions. Especially useful are P. Martin's *Measurements and Correlation Functions* (Gordon and Breach, 1970) and the lengthy review "Time dependent properties of condensed materials" by B. Berne in *Physical Chemistry*, volume 8, part b (H. Eyring, D. Henderson, and W. Jost, Eds., Academic Press, 1971).

Chapter 4 deals with irreversible processes in systems near local equilibrium. Here the magnitude of a disturbance can be large, but the theory has implicit limitations on how rapidly processes can vary in space and time. The classical prototype is the set of nonlinear Navier-Stokes equa-

tions of fluids. Zubarev's exposition is based on his own original investigations and on work by MacLennan. The theory leans heavily on the consequences of the microscopic conservation laws in conditioning the form of the self-contained macroscopic equations that are the object of the theory.

Chapter 4 also contains a number of shorter sections. There is a section on relaxation processes that deals with systems near equilibrium in a different sense. An example of such a system is a weakly ionized plasma, where a weak electric field produces a situation in which electrons and ions may be approximately considered as weakly coupled subsystems in separate equilibria at different temperatures. There are also special sections dealing with relativistic systems and with variational aspects of nonequilibrium statistical operators.

EUGENE GROSS

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(Continued on page 742)

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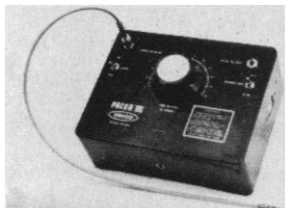
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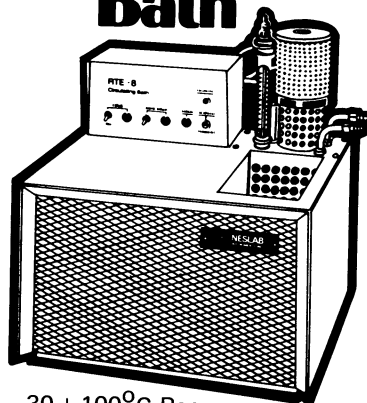
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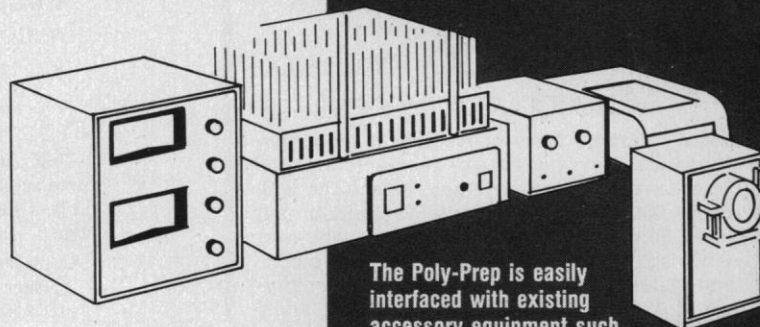
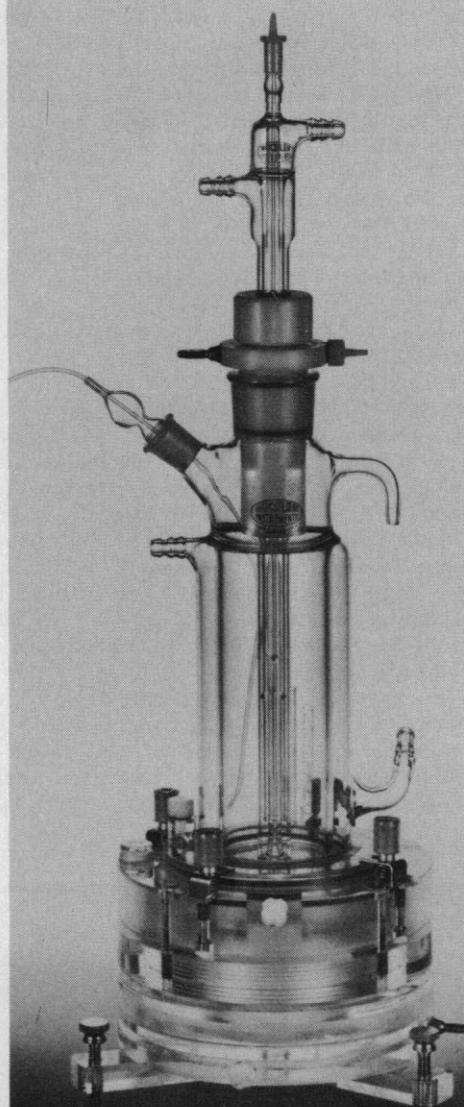
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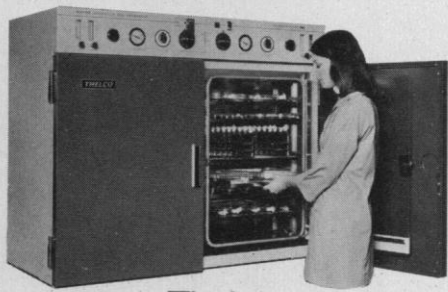
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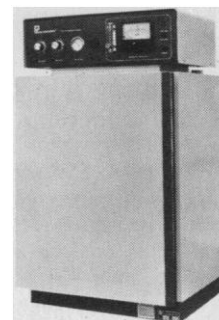
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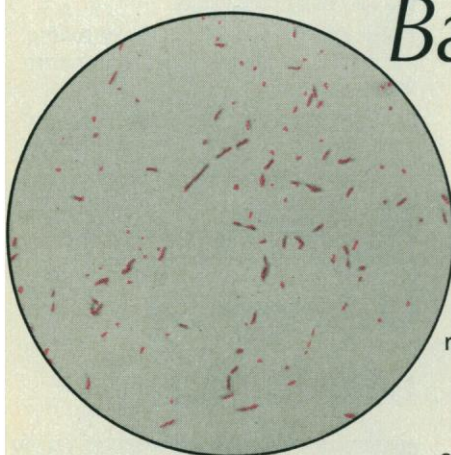
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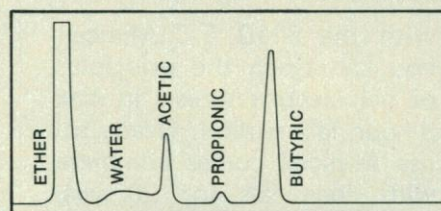
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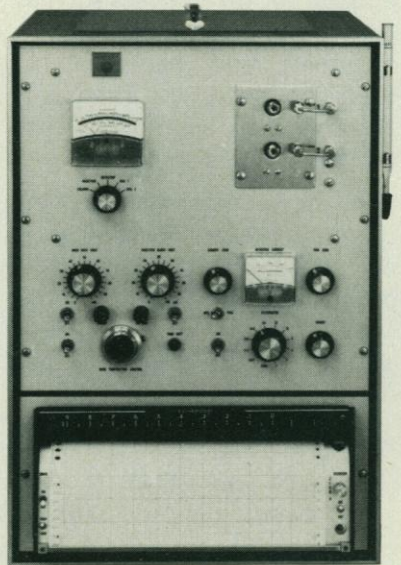


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