

SCIENCE ABSTRACTS.

SECTION A.—PHYSICS.

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Section A.—PHYSICS.

JUNE 1909.

CONTENTS.

GENERAL PHYSICS.

	PAGE
962. Camera for Recording Scale-readings. <i>J. R. Milne</i>	329
963. Analytical Machine. <i>P. E. Ludgate</i>	329
964. Testing Machine for Combined Bending and Torsion. <i>E. G. Coker</i>	330
965. Recent Experiments on Elasticity. <i>G. Ercolini</i>	330
966. Shear Strength and Elasticity. <i>M. Gröbler</i>	330
967. Test of Large Pipe	330
968. Bursting Strength of Glass Tubing. <i>J. R. Roebuck</i>	331
969. Tensile Strength of Iron in the Magnetic Field. <i>E. Drago</i>	331
970. Resistance of Materials to Impact. <i>T. E. Stanton & L. Baird</i>	331
971. Methods of Impact Testing. <i>F. W. Harberd</i>	332
972. Determination of Rate of Clock by means of Zenith Sector. <i>A. Alessio</i>	333
973. Central Forces. <i>G. Zappa</i>	333
974. Surface Separation from Solutions of Saponin, Peptone, and Albumin. <i>S. A. Shorter</i>	334
975. Molecular Flow of Gases through Apertures and Effusion. <i>M. Knudsen</i> ...	334
976. Viscosity of Water. <i>R. Hosking</i>	334
977. Propulsion of Ships and Hydroplanes. <i>E. E. Marchand-Bey</i>	335
978. Motion of a Disc in a Fluid. <i>A. de Gramont de Guiche</i>	335
979. Note on Tidal Bores. <i>Rayleigh</i>	336
980. Elastic Solid Æther. <i>A. McAulay</i>	336
981. On Ætherial Stress and Momentum. <i>C. V. Burton</i>	337
982. Pendulum Observations in India. <i>G. P. Lenox-Conyngham</i>	337
983. The Psychrometer. <i>N. Ekholm</i>	337
984. Upper Air Research in Central Africa. <i>A. Berson</i>	338
985. Upper Air Research in the Trade Winds. <i>L. Teisserenc de Bort & A. L. Roth</i>	338

Physics.

i

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14

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- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Eve, A. S., 057 | Hergesell, H., 985. | Loring, F. H., 1112*. |
| Evershed, J., 994*. | Hering, C., 1125*. | Love, A. E. H., 988*. |
| Eversheim, 1021. | Hertz-Hallwachs, 1086. | Lowry, 1135*. |
| Exner, F., 1089. | Hittorf, 1089, 1111. | Lowry, T. M., 1040*. |
| Eykman, P. H., 1089*. | Hogley, C. F., 1043*. | Ludendorff, H., 1000*. |
| Fabry, 1021. | Holetschek, J., 1002*. | Ludgate, P. E., 963*. |
| Fabry, C., 1042*. | Holland, W. W., 1132*. | Lunelund, H., 1032*. |
| Ferret, 996. | Holman, W. F., 1107*. | Läppo-Cramer, 1034. |
| Féry, C., 1064, 1070*, 1071*. | Homma, Y., 986*. | Lyle, T. R., 1099. |
| Fizeau, 1090. | Homolka, 1084. | McAulay, A., 980*. |
| Follett, C. W., 1075*. | Hooda, O., 1094*. | MacCullagh, 980. |
| Forchheimer, P., 1010*. | Hosking, R., 975*. | McLeod, 1006. |
| Foucault, 1090. | Istani, D., 991*. | Makower, W., 1052*, 1053*. |
| Franks, W. S., 998. | Izod, E. G., 970, 971. | Marchand-Bey, E. E., 977*. |
| Frary, F. C., 1144*. | Jack, R., 1048*. | Martyn, G. H., 1082. |
| Frémont, C., 971. | Jelinek, Wild-, 983. | Marx, E., 1086. |
| Fresnel-Neumann, 1082. | Jentzsch, F., 1079*, 1080*. | Mathies, W., 1089. |
| Friend, J. N., 1127. | Joly, J., 1058*. | Maurer, J., 1013*. |
| Frischauer, L., 1116*. | Jonker, W. P. A., 1116*. | Maxwell, 980, 1069. |
| Fubini, G., 1102*. | Jouve, A., 1121*. | Maxwell, Boltzmann-, 1079. |
| Gans, R., 1108*. | Jude, A., 971*. | Meitner, L., 1053. |
| Ganz, A. F., 1125*. | Keeling, B. F. E., 1124. | Meslin, G., 1036*, 1037*. |
| Garbasso, A., 1007*. | Kelvin, 988. | Miethe, A., 1012*. |
| Gauss, 1095. | Kempf, 1017*. | Milne, J., 991. |
| Gehrcke, E., 1086, 1080. | Kingsbury, A., 1122*. | Milne, J. R., 962*. |
| Geissler, 1089. | Kirkaldy, 971. | Mixer, W. G., 1129*. |
| Geitel, 1105. | Kistiakowsky, W., 1134*. | Mollier, H., 1131*. |
| Gibbs, 1149. | Kleeman, R., 1054. | Moore, B. E., 1045*, 1046. |
| Gibson, A. H., 1009*. | Knudsen, M., 975*, 1068*. | Morden, G. W., 1137*. |
| Gibson, W., 998. | Knudson, A. A., 1136*. | Morse, H. N., 1132*. |
| Gillett, H. W., 1142*, 1146*. | Koch, 1090. | Morse, H. W., 1141*. |
| Gmelin, P., 1044*, 1106*. | [Koll]. Colley, A. R., 1103*. | Mosotti, 1069. |
| Gockel, 1058. | Kollock, L. G., 1144, 1145*. | Moulton, F. R., 1001*. |
| de Gramont de Guiche, A., | van Laar, J. J., 1150*. | Müller, 1017*. |
| 978*. | Landolt, H., 1114. | Nabl, J., 1050*. |
| Green, 980. | Langley, 978. | Nagaoka, H., 1041*. |
| Griffin, F. L., 973. | Laplace, 1001. | Nakamura, S., 991*. |
| Grisson, 1101. | Larmor, 980. | Naumann, O. E., 991. |
| Grübler, M., 966*. | Laub, J., 1062*. | Nernst, 1111. |
| de Guiche, A. de Gramont, | Lebedew, P., 1018*. | Nernst, W., 1133. |
| 978*. | Le Bel, J. A., 990*. | Neumann, Fresnel-, 1082. |
| Haber, F., 1137. | Le Blanc, M., 1138*. | Newall, H. F., 995*. |
| Hadamard, 1106*. | Leduc, A., 1074*. | Newton, 973. |
| Hahn, O., 1053. | Lehmann, E., 1012*. | Nicholson, J. W., 1099*. |
| Hale, 994. | Lenard, 1078. | Nicol, J., 1082*. |
| Hallwachs, Hertz-, 1086. | Lenox-Conyngham, G. P., | Nogier, T., 1101*. |
| Harber, 1125. | 982*. | Nyswander, R. E., 1027*. |
| Harbord, F. W., 971*. | Lewis, G. N., 1008. | Osmond, 1124. |
| Harms, F., 1105. | Lewis, W. C. M., 1149*. | Ostwald, 1134. |
| Harvey, F. A., 1054. | Leyst, E., 1011*. | Owen, M., 1077*. |
| Hecker, O., 988. | Loeb, 1111. | Paschen, 1048. |
| Hefner, 1067. | Lombardi, L., 1099*. | Pawlow, P., 1148*. |
| Heiberger, H., 1110*. | Longridge, M., 971*. | Pearson, K., 998. |

* Asterisk means Author of paper or remarks.

SCIENCE ABSTRACTS.

Section A.—PHYSICS.

JUNE 1909.

GENERAL PHYSICS.

962. *Camera for Recording Scale-readings.* J. R. Milne. (Roy. Soc. Edinburgh, Proc. 29. pp. 176-181, 1908-1909.)—Describes a camera designed to take a series of photographs of the scale and vernier of a polarimeter or other instrument, which, on subsequent examination, will show the relative position of the scale and vernier at the time of each exposure. The camera is focussed on the scale and vernier, which must be made so that the scale moves, the vernier remaining stationary, and the scale is illuminated in any convenient manner. A simple mechanism is used to make the exposure and to cause the plate to move on to a new position after the exposure is made. In this way 60 photographs, in rows of 10 each, can be obtained on a 5 × 4 in. plate. In order to identify individual photographs, or to indicate the commencement of a new series of records, a means is provided whereby a single or a double wedge-shaped mark can be produced on the photographs, and, to save counting, a bell rings at each tenth exposure. The advantages claimed for this method of making photographic records of the readings of an instrument are: (1) The saving of labour and strain to the eye of the observer, which is left in a better condition for its principal work. (2) The elimination of the possibility of errors of reading on the part of the observer. (3) The great saving of time which is effected. (4) The elimination of all personal bias due to a knowledge of the results that are being obtained. (5) The securing of a permanent record of the readings. A. W.

963. *Analytical Machine.* P. E. Ludgate. (Roy. Dublin Soc., Proc. 12. 9. pp. 77-91, April, 1909.)—The author here gives a short account of the result of six years' work undertaken with the object of designing machinery capable of performing calculations, however intricate or laborious, without the immediate guidance of the human intellect. In some respects the proposed machine resembles Babbage's analytical engine, but in others differs considerably, for while Babbage designed two sets of Jacquard-cards, one set to govern the operations and the other set to select the numbers to be operated on, the author uses one sheet or roll of perforated paper to perform both these functions in the order and manner necessary to solve the formula

VOL. XII.

Z

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to which the particular paper is assigned. Each row of perforations across the formula-paper directs the machine in some definite step of calculation—such as, for instance, a complete multiplication, including the selection of the numbers to be multiplied together. The machine prints all results, and, if required, the data, and any noteworthy values which transpire during the calculation. The mechanical details are too complex to deal with briefly.

A. W.

964. *Testing-machine for Combined Bending and Torsion.* E. G. Coker. (Phil. Mag. 17. pp. 496–502, April, 1909. Paper read before the Physical Soc., Feb. 26, 1909.)—The specimen bar is suspended at two points which it overhangs equally at each end. Equal weights hang at the ends, so that there is a uniform bending moment between the points of suspension. The rod is also twisted by two equal weights hanging from two equal levers, one standing out from each side, placed at the points of suspension. (In the machine one of these levers is replaced by a worm and worm-wheel torsion head mounted in trunnions.) An instrument is also described which can be used to measure either the elastic torsion or elastic bending strain. It consists in principle of a reading microscope attached to one end of the length under observation, by means of which the movements of a wire carried by the other end can be measured.

F. R.

965. *Recent Experiments on Elasticity.* G. Ercolini. (N. Cimento, 17. pp. 85–94, Jan.–Feb., 1909.)—The paper is a review of recent work on elasticity, in particular that of Cantone for small deformations and of Bouasse [see Abstract No. 1225 (1908)] for large deformations. Extension, flexure, and torsional strain are all considered, and the results are extremely complex. Amongst other conclusions it is pointed out that the damping of vibrations is due to the dissipation of energy corresponding to the hysteresis effect on taking the specimen through a cycle of strain, and not to "molecular friction." Also it is pointed out that the metals are only rendered isotropic to a very approximate extent by annealing.

S. G. S.

966. *Shear Strength and Elasticity.* M. Grüber. (Zeitschr. Ver. Deutsch. Ing. 58. pp. 449–455, March 20, 1909.)—Shear stress was applied to short hollow cylinders of 1 : 3 cement mortar mounted upon a shaft and surrounded by a clamp to which levers were attached. The shear stress would thus be uniform at all points at the same distance from the axis. The modulus of elasticity in shear, G , rapidly fell with increasing load to about 2,000 atmos. Failure did not occur in shear in any case, although a max. shear stress, S , of 39.56 atmos. was applied, so that the shear strength must be higher than this figure. Failure occurred by tension in each test. From former experiments [see Abstract No. 578 (1907)] it is known that Young's modulus E is at least 60,000 atmos. and the tensile strength T less than 27 atmos., so that in both respects this material disagrees with the elastic theory of isotropic materials which requires $G > \frac{1}{2} E$ and $S < T$.

F. R.

967. *Test of Large Pipe.* (Eng. News, 61. p. 420, April 15, 1909.)—Describes the test of a 42-in. diam. pipe, about 20 ft. long, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick, in connection with the contract for the 12-mile main of Springfield waterworks. The max. head in service would be about 150 lbs. per sq. in. The test was abandoned at 1,050 lbs. per sq. in., the stress then being about 50,400 lbs. per sq. in. The circumference had then increased by about 4 in., and the "lock-bar" joints

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- Lenard, Hallwachs-, [265](#)
 Leonard, A. G. G., & W. N. Hartley, spectra, [642](#)
 Lenox-Conyngham, G. P., gravity, [982](#)
 Lepape, A., & C. Moureu, radio-activity, [852](#)
 Lepiarczyk, V., Zn smelting, [1658](#)
 Le Rossignol, R., & F. Haber, dissociation, [1476](#)
 Leroux, A., & K. Friedrich, Pt-Sb alloys, [564](#)
 Lerp, K., Rupert's drops, [1987](#)
 Letalle, A., sea-water, [385](#)
 Levi, M. G., & S. Castellani, borates, [352](#)
 Levi, M. G., & E. Migliorini, electro-chemistry, [749](#)
 Levi, M. G., & R. Nasini, radio-activity, [77](#), [242](#), [248](#)
 Levi-Civita, T., [1427](#); electric radiations, [1266](#), [2098](#); electro-dynamics, [544](#)
 Levin, M., & R. Ruer, radio-activity, [1704](#)
 Levy, D. M., copper, [1324*](#)
 Levy, H., thermodynamics, [1717](#)
 Lewes, [345](#)
 Lewinson, L. J., illumination, [3038](#)
 Lewis, E. A., copper industry, [1347](#)
 Lewis, G. N., [948](#), [1008](#), [1487](#); hydration of ions, [168](#); matter and energy, [11](#); mechanics, [1486](#)
 Lewis, G. N., & L. W. Sargent, ferro-ferricyanide electrode, [741](#); liquid potentials, [743](#)
 Lewis, G. N., & R. C. Tolman, relativity, [1488](#)
 Lewis, S. J., & E. Wedekind, zirconium, [919](#)
 Lewis, W. C. M., adsorption, [1140](#)
 Lewkonja, K., alloys, [309](#)
 Lewkowitsch, J., refractometer, [1523](#)
 Leyst, E., atmospheric electricity, [871](#); meteorology, [1011](#)
 Lichty, D. M., sulphuric acid, [1332](#)
 Liebenoff, [1929](#)
 Liebig, [881](#)
 Lilienfeld, [518](#)
 Lilly, W. E., elasticity, [1516](#)
 Linde, [2082](#)
 Lindeck, St., manganin resistances, [139](#)
 Lindemann, R., damping, [528](#)
 Linder, [1470](#)
 Linders, F. J., asteroids, [50](#)
 Lindsay, T. A., recalescence, [724](#)
 Lippich, [1394](#)
 Lippmann, [549](#)
 Lippmann, G., [131](#), [665](#), [1313](#); seismic movements, [591](#)
 Lipski, J., ammonia, [917](#)
 Lisell, E., [281](#), [1928](#)
 Lissajou, [778](#)
 Little, C., meteorology, [20](#)
 Liznar, [666](#)
 Lloyd, M. G., hysteresis, [450B](#); mass and magnetisation, [1619](#); transformers, [52B](#)
 Lloyd, M. G., & P. G. Agnew, acoustics [1722](#)
 Löb, W., discharge, [176](#)
 Lockyer, N., F. E. Baxandall, & C. P. Butler, ϵ Orionis, [2018](#)
 Lockyer, W. J. S., [1368](#)
 Lodge, O. J., [1912](#)
 Loeb, [1111](#)
 Lohmann, W., [230](#), [822](#)
 Lohmann, W., & E. Dorn, liquid-crystals, [1397](#)
 Lohstein, T., Tate's law, [955](#)
 Lombardi, L., magnetism, [1099](#)
 Lommel, [55](#)
 Longridge, M., impact testing, [971*](#)
 Lonius, A., diffusion, [1679](#)
 Lorentz, [11](#), [110](#), [118](#), [148](#), [216](#), [230](#), [260](#), [911](#), [1204](#), [1260](#), [1266](#), [1524](#), [1888](#)
 Lorentz, H. A., [13](#), [95](#), [107](#), [201](#), [503](#), [533](#), [909](#), [1259](#), [1573](#)
 Lorentz-Einstein, [502](#)
 Lorenz, [1603](#)
 Lorenz, R., [573](#), [732](#); elasticity, [8](#); oxygen electrode, [175](#), [1966](#)
 Lorenz, R., & E. Lauber, oxygen electrode, [745](#), [945](#)
 Lorenz, R., & P. E. Spielmann, oxygen electrode, [1336](#)
 Loria, S., [58](#); dispersion, [634](#), [1205](#), [1524](#)
 Loria, S., & R. Ladenburg, dispersion, [53](#)
 Loring, F. H., atomic weights, [1112](#); radio-active elements, [2132](#)
 Lo Surdo, A., condensation, [92](#); seismology, [1851](#)
 Lothar Meyer, [592](#)
 Loutchinsky, magnetism, [1447](#)
 Love, A. E. H., [13](#), [197](#), [1683](#); earth's rigidity, [988](#)
 Lovelace, B. F., & H. N. Morse, manometer, [1627](#)
 Lowell, P., [399](#), [787](#), [790](#); Mars, [788](#), [1192](#); satellites, [2014](#)
 Lowry, T. M., [137](#), [287](#); electrolytic potentials, [1135*](#); refractometry, [1871](#); rotatory dispersion, [451](#)
 Lowry, T. M., & C. H. Desch, spectra, [1040](#), [1895](#)
 Lucas, F., [1984](#)
 Lucas, L., compressed gases, [1718](#)
 Ludendorff, H., stars, [1000](#)
 Ludewig, P., Wehnelt break, [1296](#)
 Ludgate, P. E., analytical machine, [963](#)
 Ludwik, P., deformation, [1385](#); hardness tests, [1834](#)
 Lüppo-Cramer, [1034](#)
 Lumière, A., L. Lumière, & A. Seyewetz, photochemistry, [926](#)

	Abstract Nos.
Apparatus and Instruments (Electrical, Descriptive), continued.	
Electrodynamometer, Absolute. P. Janet, F. Laporte, and R. Jouaust	133
" " , New Absolute. H. Pellat	132
Electrolytic Ions, Demonstrating Velocities of. U. Cialdea	1111
Electromagnet, Improved Semicircular. H. E. J. G. du Bois	2115
Electromagnets, Powerful Laboratory. G. Zindel	1298
Electrometer. T. Wulf	1104
" " . J. Elster and H. Geitel	1940
" " , Absolute Torsion. E. Salmon	895
" " , Quadrant, Adjustment of. H. Scholl	289
" " " , for Atmospheric Phenomena. H. Ebert	1767
" " " , String. T. H. Laby	1766
Electrometers, Compensation. Hurmuzescu	535
Emanation from Ground, Apparatus for recording. H. Ebert	1300
Engler-Siebeking Apparatus, Improved. H. Mache and S. Meyer	898
Furnace, Electric Transformer Melting. H. Helberger	1110
Furnaces, Two Electrical. K. Friedrich	555
Galvanometer, Alternating-current. Guinchant	1445
" " , Bifilar Vibration. W. Duddell	1613
" " , Shielded. E. F. Nichols and S. R. Williams	291
Galvanometers, Astatic Moving-coil. M. Reinganum	537
High-voltage Direct Current for Radiologic Purposes. M. Hochstädter	2128
Hysteresigraph, Abraham-Carpentier	542B
Hysteresis Curves, Demonstration of. A. Wehnelt	899
Induction Coil giving 50-inch Spark. C. B. Hayward	1297
Interrupter, Grisson Electrolytic. T. Nogier	1101
" " , New Mercury. F. Dessauer	1931
Magnetic Fields, Measurement of. Voege	1932
Magnetometer, Improved. J. G. Gray and A. D. Ross	1299
Mechanism actuated by Magnetic Properties. A. Fodor and de Büty	1612
Ohms, International, Construction of. J. R. Benoit	138
Oscillograph, Double, for Lecture Demonstration. F. Piola	1066
" " , Duddell, for Use on 50,000-volt Circuit	1025B
Phase-shifting Transformer. C. V. Drysdale	57B
Propagation of Currents in Cables, Demonstrating. C. V. Drysdale	546
Pyrometers, <i>see</i> section Thermometry.	
Radio-activity by Electroscopic Method. C. Chéneveau and A. Laborde	710
Relay driven by Electrostatic Force. K. Bergwitz	897
Resistance Box, New Decimal. A. Bombe	712
" " , Standard, of a New Form. E. B. Rosa	896
" " " with Balanced Inductance and Capacity. S. L. Brown	2114
Resistances with Low Self-induction. E. Orlich	1752
" " " , Water-cooled, Non-inductive. C. C. Paterson and E. H. Rayner	633B
Rheograph, Double. H. Abraham	1097
Rotating Fields, Demonstrating. G. Bode	536
Self-induction Standards, Graduated. Kollert	1455
Solving Algebraic Equations. A. Russell and J. N. Alty	1984
Standard of Wave-length. J. A. Fleming	1768
Thermometer, Platinum-resistance, New Form of. J. G. L. Stern	1458
Thermometers, <i>see also</i> section Thermometry.	
Thermo-wattmeter for High-frequency Currents. R. van Cauwenberghe, L. Pillier	700
Utilising both Phases of Current in Radiology. Béclère	906
Wave-meter, Standard. A. Campbell	1189B
Apparatus and Instruments (Physical, excluding Electrical, Descriptive).	
Air-pump, Mercury, and Vacuum Meter. U. v. Reden	1006
Analyser, Harmonic. O. Mader	2022
Analytical Machine. P. E. Ludgate	963

For the Explanation of this Index see p. 755.