

tive sense concerning some notions held by many physicists.

He takes to task the so-called instrumentalist view that knowledge is only a tool. Although later Einstein "repented", he was largely responsible for the widespread adoption of instrumentalism. Popper dismisses the closely related notion of operationalism by asserting that measurements presuppose theories. He is concerned with the naïve adoption of the instrumentalist "official view" of quantum theory held currently by most leading theorists and teachers of physics. He maintains that by adopting the Bohr principle of complementarity, they have accepted the subjective idealism of Berkeley and Bellarmine. Popper feels that this principle is ad hoc and has been completely sterile in

physics. Yet he does not believe in ultimate explanation by essences, but instead follows the theme set by Xenophanes twenty-five hundred years ago:

The gods did not reveal from the beginning
All things to us; but in the course of time
Through seeking, men find that which is the better.

But as for certain truth, no man has known it,
Nor will he know it; neither of the gods,
Nor yet of all the things of which I speak.
And even if by chance he were to utter
The final truth, he would himself not know it;
For all is but a woven web of guesses.

Only in this way can scientific knowledge grow.

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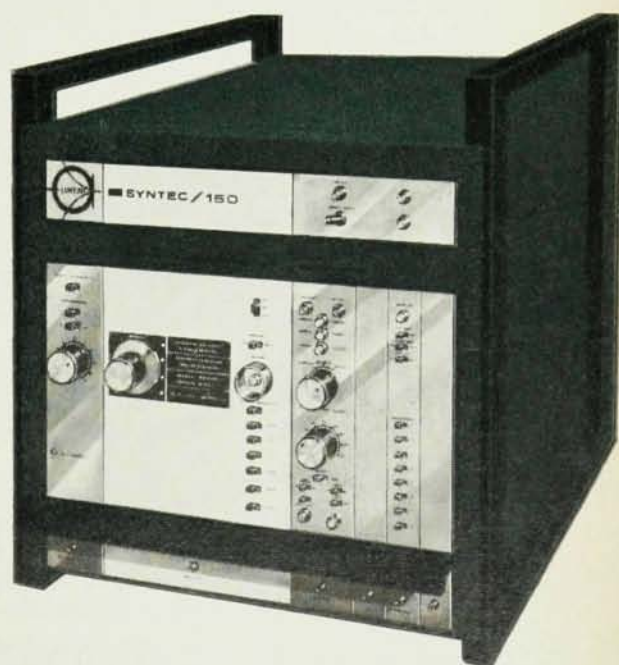
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