

LETTERS *Continued from page 3*

thus brings about these obnoxious conduction effects mentioned above. In practice things are much more complicated in consequence of the homocharge effect, surface conduction, and surface breakdown, but these problems are much too controversial to be discussed here.

Being one of the few authors who have published several papers on the electret, I have come to take a more than professional interest in its existence and am very anxious to see that it is always given a fair deal.

B. GROSS

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Electret Microphones

Sir:

Andrew Gemant, in his article on Electrets in the March issue of *Physics Today*, states: "... electret microphones and their operational characteristics have not yet been mentioned in the technical literature." May I draw your readers' attention to the fact that the electret microphone has been protected for Mr. William A. Bruno, Astoria, N. Y., . . . by the American Patent No. 2,284,039 of May, 1942 . . . F. Gutman (in *Reviews of Modern Physics*) gives credit to A. Gemant for being the first to suggest the employment of electrets in condenser microphones . . . in 1935, but also mentions that the Japanese have used them rather extensively during World War II.

PAUL J. ERNST

Villanova, Pennsylvania

Stet

Sir:

I have noted in your correspondence columns a considerable amount of confusion concerning a reference, in an article written by me, to one "Max Karl Planck." It has been suggested that an unfortunate enallage in the picture of Dr. Planck involved also an error in the name of the subject of the picture. Permit me to call your attention to the name of the originator of the quantum theory, as printed on page 1191 of Webster's Biographical Dictionary. His name is given as "Max Karl Ernst Ludwig Planck." By the process of abbreviation, that would make him "Max Karl Planck." The only error in *Physics Today* was in printing the picture of Erwin Planck in place of the picture of Dr. Max Karl Ernst Ludwig Planck. I hope this makes everything very clear.

JULIUS C. C. EDELSTEIN

Washington, D. C.

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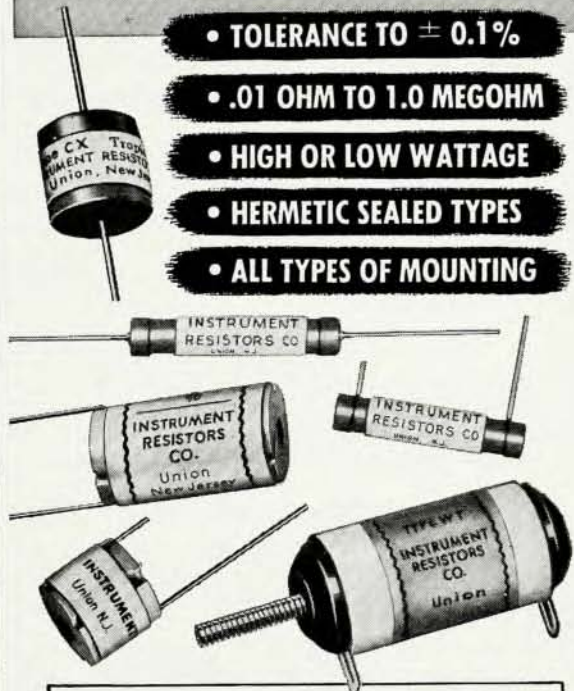
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