

ough way—perhaps at the cost of simply quoting results of the two-body problem whose development now appears in many beginning physics texts. In attempting to cover such a broad spectrum of subject matter, embracing so much of physics and astronomy in a mere 500 pages, it is inevitable that some topics are handled in an inadequate or frustrating fashion. The student first should read a good elementary text such as George Abell's *Exploration of the Universe*. Chapter 2 could have been deleted. Likewise, the discussion of stellar atmospheres and spectral line formation cannot be recommended. The value of the text would have been greatly enhanced by a careful set of reading guides to significant references including review articles and monographs. While references to original literature are to be commended, documentation of a minor interpolation formula can scarcely substitute for mention of truly fundamental work by the same author.

It is unfortunate that the most engaging problems posed by the nearest star, the Sun, are scarcely even mentioned. Only in certain solar flares can we actually witness the origin of cosmic rays and obtain an insight in what may be expected in the outer envelopes of other normal stars. The speculations on tachyons could easily have been sacrificed to provide space for these really basic topics.

In summary, Harwit is to be congratulated on producing a worthwhile contribution to the astrophysical literature.

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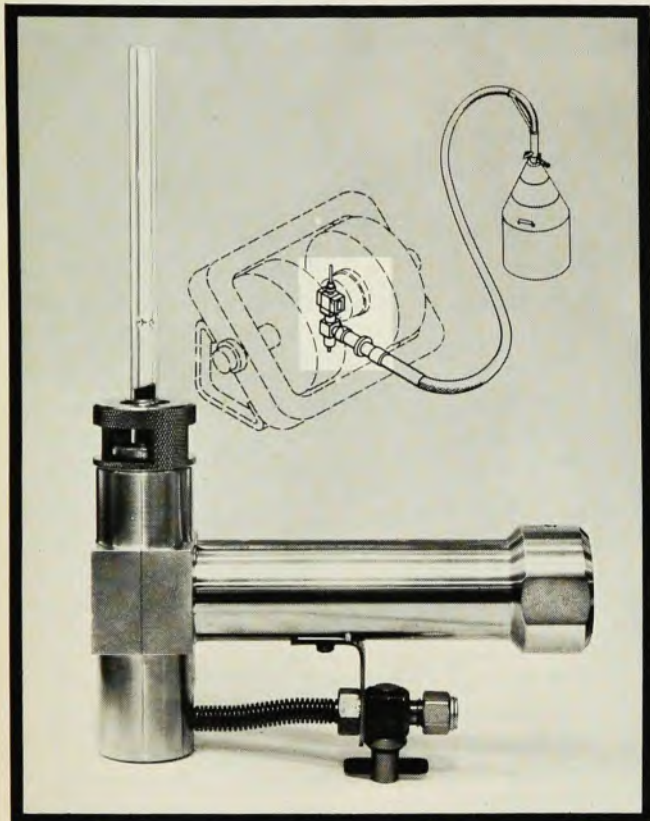


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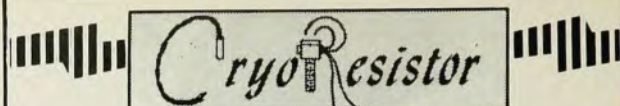
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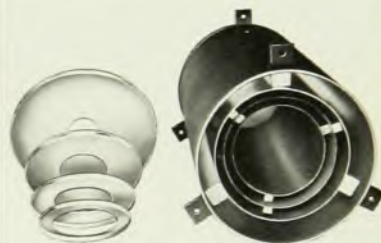
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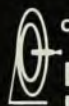
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