

main sections: The first deals with Eddington and astronomy and astrophysics, and the second is concerned with Eddington as the expositor and exponent of general relativity. The author knew Eddington well at Cambridge in the early and mid-1930s (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, October 1982, page 33), but he does not pretend to have written a biography, and A. Vibert Douglas's *The Life of Arthur Stanley Eddington* is still unchallenged as the central source on Eddington.

Chandrasekhar does not doubt that Eddington made fundamental contributions to astronomy, astrophysics and general relativity. Nor does he question the accepted view of Eddington as kindly, brave and sometimes painfully shy in his private life. Nevertheless, Chandrasekhar's Eddington does display a tougher, more aggressive and less flexible side in scientific matters than one might have expected from other published writings. Chandrasekhar states bluntly that Eddington was not always fair in the way he treated his scientific adversaries. He is also critical of Eddington's attitude in later life towards scientific research, an attitude he describes as "cocksure" and which he contrasts with the more modest approach he believes Eddington displayed in the earlier part of his career.

Although Chandrasekhar's treatment of the historical context in which Eddington performed his studies is shaky on occasion (Eddington did not favor the de Sitter universe over the Einstein universe in his *The Mathematical Theory of Relativity*, for example), he has produced an absorbing cameo of a fascinating and original astrophysicist and physicist, and one that also tells us something of Chandrasekhar.

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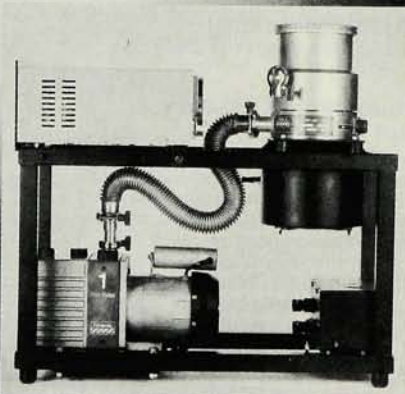
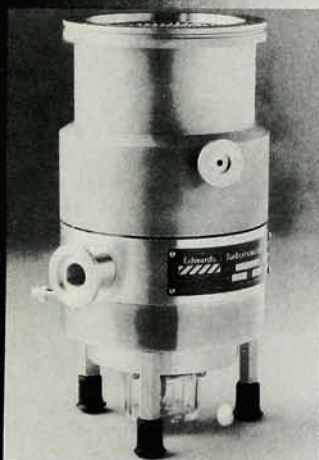
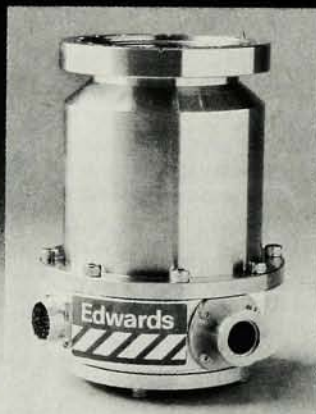
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