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acceptably hypothetical to Kelvin because the crucial concept of an unobservable displacement current was not properly related to experience.

Though impressive, the book is not without weaknesses, especially in its more general interpretations. Smith and Wise ask for a degree of elasticity in their terms describing Kelvin's moderate views, but one wonders if the terms really apply much beyond the 1840s. In 1849, Kelvin's brother, also a member of the Thomson family after all, openly declared his radical unitarianism. The intense controversies of the last half-century of Kelvin's life involved both hypotheses in science and differences in theology. Indeed, guided by his father, Kelvin even began his career with controversy, with a paper that showed up the professor of mathematics at the University of Edinburgh. Describing Kelvin's science as "non-hypothetical," especially with the connotation of noncontroversial given the word by Smith and Wise, seems off the mark.

Nevertheless, this long-anticipated volume by two well-respected historians of science provides a thorough and illuminating treatment of a principal founder of both modern science and modern engineering science.

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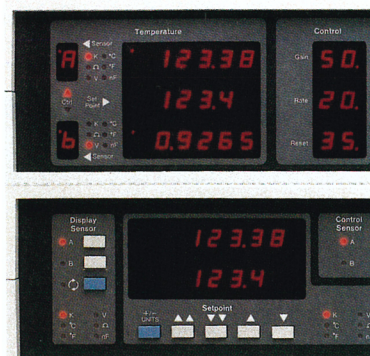
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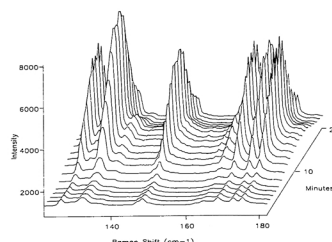
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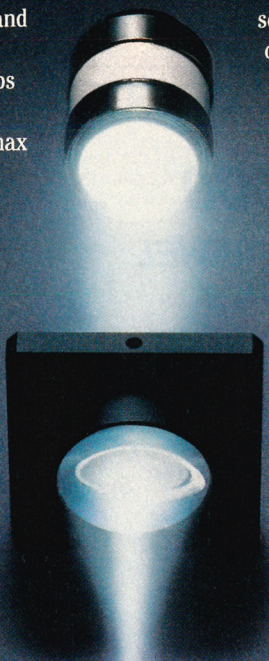
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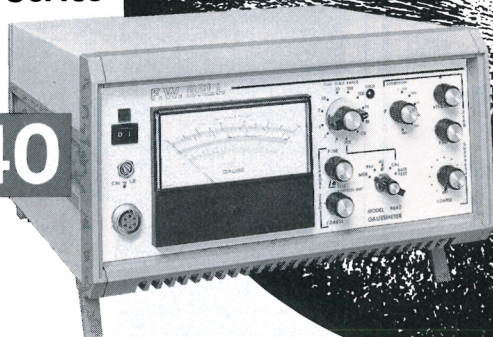


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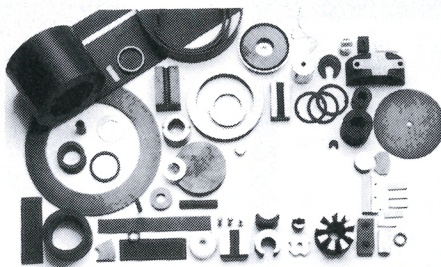
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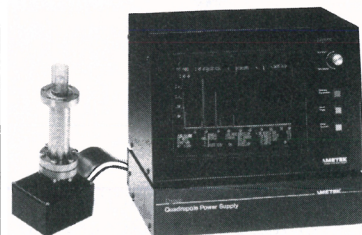
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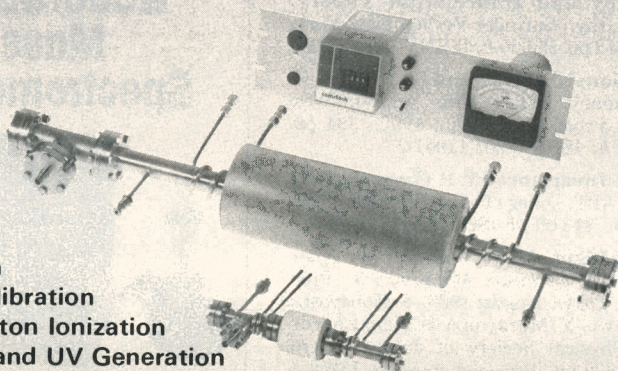
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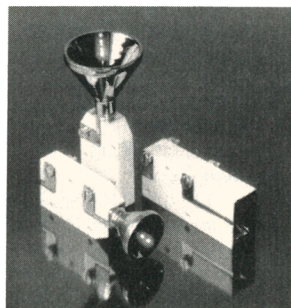
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