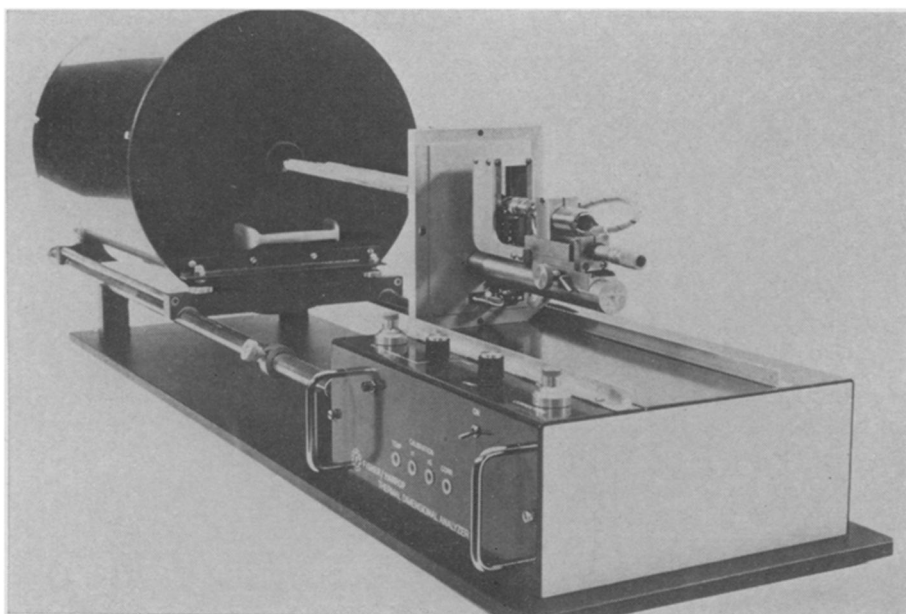


new products

Dilatometer



The coefficient of expansion is a measure of how much a material expands per unit of temperature increase.

An automatic dilatometer, a device that measures the coefficient of expansion, is available from Fisher Scientific Co. Called the Fisher-Harrop Thermal Dimensional Analyzer, it works by means of two rods, one stationary to hold the sample and one free to move. When the test sample expands, the free rod moves. This movement is translated into a voltage—so many volts per thousandths of an inch—which in turn is amplified so that it moves a pen recorder along graph paper, giving an automatic readout.

*Fisher Scientific Co.
501 Fisher Building
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219*

Circle No. 138 on Reader Service Card

Robot astronomer

As a result of the work of astrophysicists at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, a computerized system has been developed to read photographic star plates (SN: 3/14, p. 273). Available from Faul-Coradi Scotland, Ltd., the system is the first to bring complete automation to optical astronomy. In addition, it has applications for biology, medicine, microelectronics, nuclear physics and other fields where fine, detailed analysis is required.

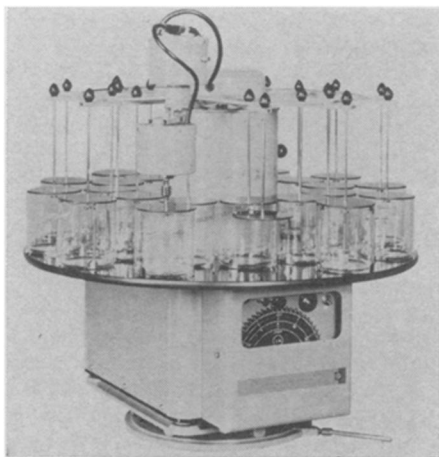
The system uses an optical scanner that passes a light beam over the

photographic plate. The amount of light that comes through the plate at any one point is determined by whether the image of a star has been captured there. Its resolving power is accurate to within one micron. A photoelectric cell does the actual detecting, and a computer calculates and records the measurements.

*Faul-Coradi, Inc.
Fennell Street
Skaneateles, N. Y. 13152*

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Slide stainer



Staining slides for microscopic examination, although necessary, is a time-consuming process when done manually.

Lab-Line Instruments, Inc., eliminates this problem with its Stainmatik, an automatic slide-staining machine. It can stain any specimen that can be mounted on a microscope slide. The kit includes 23 beakers for the staining fluid. A mechanical arm carrying up to as many as 36 slides visits the correct beakers for the proper amount of time according to a predetermined program. The beakers and times are preselected by notching the plastic program discs with a notching tool. The timing can be as short as 30 seconds at a beaker or as long as an hour, depending on the stain and the technique used.

The stainer is also available with an attachment that can increase its overall capacity to 72 slides.

*Lab-Line Biomedical Products, Inc.
15th & Bloomingdale Avenues
Melrose Park, Ill. 60160*

Circle No. 139 on Reader Service Card

Melting-point device

A melting-point apparatus by the National Instrument Co. can measure melting points of samples as small as 0.1 microgram from 30 degrees C. to 300 degrees C. The instrument works with directly transmitted, reflected or polarized light. The sample and the melting point can be observed simultaneously through a special prismatic lens setup. This permits the sample to be kept under constant observation and the temperature noted as each change in state occurs. Coarse and fine heat controls permit precise adjustment of the heating stage temperature.

*National Instrument Co., Inc.
Baltimore, Md. 21215*

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Limnology kit

Limnology is the study of the factors that affect bodies of fresh water. One of the most important of these is chemical composition. A limnology kit is offered by the LaMotte Chemical Products Co. to enable students to measure the levels of key chemical factors that affect aquatic life in ponds, lakes, marshes, streams and rivers.

Called the Combination Limnology Outfit, it provides equipment for analysis of acidity-dissolved oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrate, phosphate, silica, calcium, magnesium and the total hardness of fresh-water samples.

*The LaMotte Chemical Products Co.
P.O. Box 329
Chestertown, Md. 21620*

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