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A STAFF PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERMA-NENT SETUPS FOR LECTURE DEMONSTRATIONS IN PHYSICS*

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(Abstract)

For several years the members of the departmental staff have been planning, designing, and producing a series of permanent lecture-room demonstrations which can be quickly set up and taken down. It has been found that this system is a practical necessity where the teaching of elementary physics is all done in comparatively small sections, with the lecture demonstration apparatus used in connection with the daily work of the class; experience has shown that it would have many advantages under any conditions.

Each demonstration is either "ready to go" after some simple operation, such as plugging into an electric circuit, or else may be made ready in a few minutes. Each piece is described on a card and photographic copies of the cards are furnished each member of the staff and the lecture assistant; the card contains complete information regarding the apparatus, the essential features of its manipulation, suggestions regarding its most effective use pedagogically, and instructions regarding maintenance and adjustment in operation. An attempt is being made to cover all the experiments which the staff regard as necessary and desirable to illustrate the most important principles of physics. Although one staff member is responsible for each experiment or group, all decisions regarding general plans, design and pedagogy are reached by the staff in conference.

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