

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1897.

A LECTURE BY REGNAULT.

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WHEN a student at the Collège de France in 1847 I heard a lecture by Victor Regnault, of a part of which I send a copy. So far as I know, it was never printed. The lithographed copies were paid for by the students themselves. I think that the figures of prisms given (see plate) will have something more than a purely historical interest even now.

WOLCOTT GIBBS.

NEWPORT, January 27, 1897.

Quelques physiciens ont construits des appareils au moyen desquels on peut observer les raies du spectre sans qu'il soit nécessaire de se placer dans une chambre obscure.

A l'une des extrémités d'un tuyau, Mr. Dujardin place un diaphragme rectiligne; à l'autre extrémité, un certain nombre de prismes fixés dans la position du minimum de déviation, en les disposant ainsi, il a pour but de diminuer autant que cela est possible, l'aberration de sphéricité qui résulterait de ce que les rayons incidents ne sont pas parallèles.

On obtient ainsi un spectre très dévié, mais cette disposition présente plusieurs inconvénients; la déviation minimum n'a lieu que pour les rayons qui marchent dans l'axe du tuyau; de plus, quoi que l'on ait diminué le plus possible l'épaisseur des prismes les pertes de lumière par réflexion

Science

5 (115)

Science 5 (115), 409-452.

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