

rays shows a more rapid abatement of the atomic vibrations to which they are due, than the arc rays. Even the most intense rays, *H* and *K*, do not last as long as some weaker arc rays. The ray 3706, with an intensity of 10, has the shortest duration of all the rays. The examination of calcium, containing traces of Sr, Mg, Al, and Mn, gives these results: Always distinguishing between arc rays and spark rays, and granting that the duration of a ray depends on its intensity, the duration of strontium rays is far greater than that of calcium rays. On the other hand, the rays of magnesium are relatively shorter than the corresponding rays of calcium. The two aluminum rays between *H* and *K* have almost normal duration, while the triple rays of manganese show a greater duration than the equally intense calcium rays. It follows from these data that the observation of the relative duration of spectral rays might, in certain conditions, give useful indications in the analysis of substances containing unknown impurities.

Removal of Paraffin, Vaseline, etc. C. BENEDICKS. (*Phys. Zeitschr.*, xi, 254.)—Paraffin and vaseline, etc., can be removed by washing with condensing alcohol vapor. Thus by inserting a beaker which has contained paraffin over another containing a little alcohol and placed on a water bath, the paraffin is removed. This method can be applied to the removal of grease from the fractured surface of steel, or from articles to be silvered and so on.

A Carthaginian Lamp. M. EUGÈNE COLLIN. (*Mon. scientifique*, xxiv, 826.)—The microscopical examination of the wick fibres, after bleaching with permanganate in sulphuric solution and then treating with bisulphite, shows that this wick consists of flax fibre.

Composition of Greek Vases. W. FOSTER. (*J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, xxxii, 1259.)—Experiments show that the black glaze of the Attic styles of vase is due to ferrous iron probably as silicate, while the red glaze of the Mycenaean style is probably due to ferric iron. These views are supported by synthetic experiments. The complete analyses of fragments of vases show that the Mycenaean pottery is much poorer in silica and richer in lime, and therefore more fusible than the Attic.

Metallic Strontium. B. L. GLASCOCK. (*J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, xxxii, 1222.)—This metal was obtained by fusing pure strontium chloride in a hemispherical iron cathode vessel 25 cm. in diameter, with walls 0.6 cm. thick, with a carbon anode 8 cm. x 8 cm. This allowed a low anode current density and avoided overheating. With a current of 125 ampères and 40 volts for 7 hours, 76 Gm. of metal were removed in small lumps up to 3 Gm. in weight. The