

# Extracts from the papers of Sir Charles Wheatstone

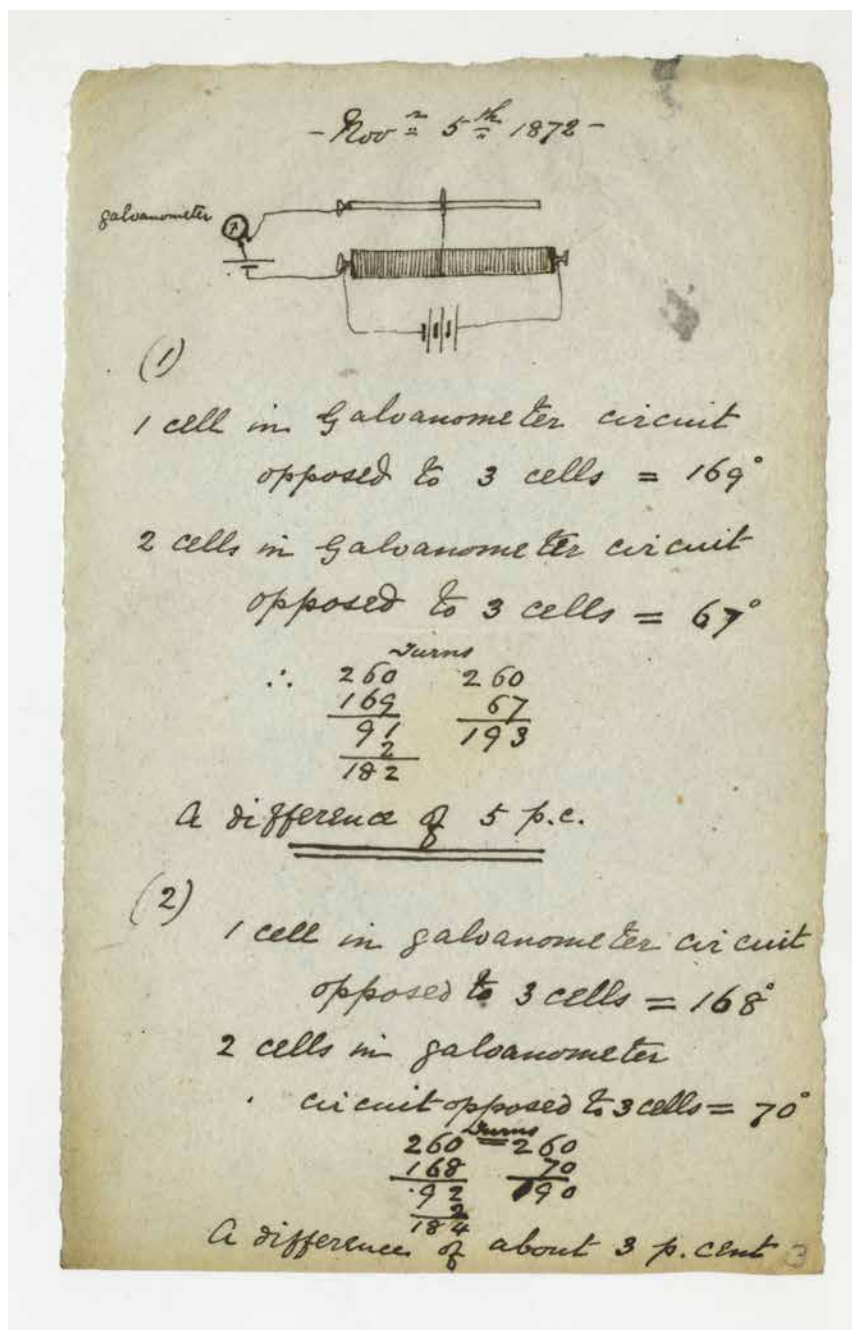
WHEATSTONE 2: Material relating to experiments designed to measure electromotive forces and electric potential, [1834-1875]

K/PP107/2/2/1-118

[1871-1872]

Notes compiled by Charles Wheatstone on the measurement of electric potential in an experimental apparatus consisting of rotating electrodes, and in circuits comprising Standard cells and gas batteries; experimental notes on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by the German physicist, Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), 1871-1872.

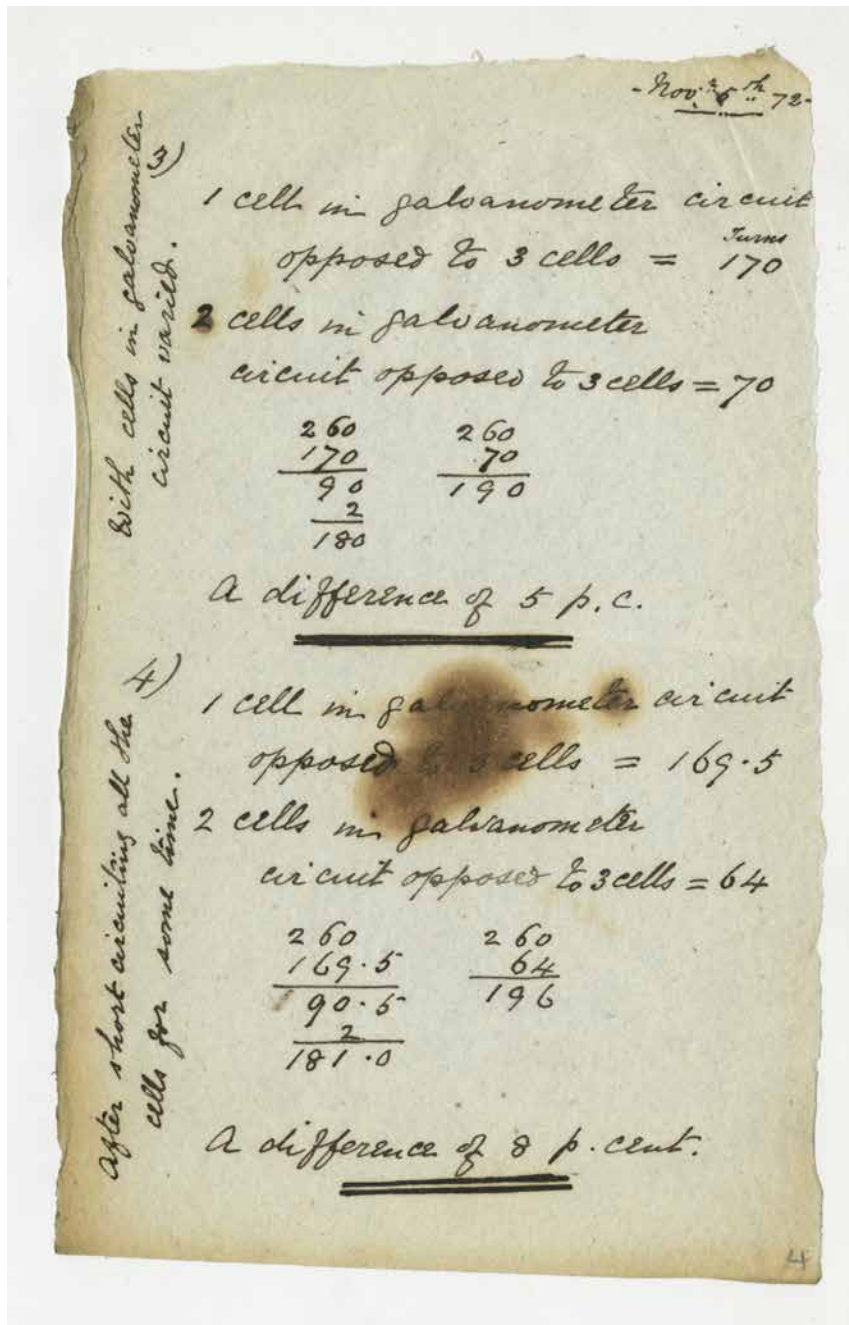
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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), chemist and electrical engineer, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Nov 5, page 1.

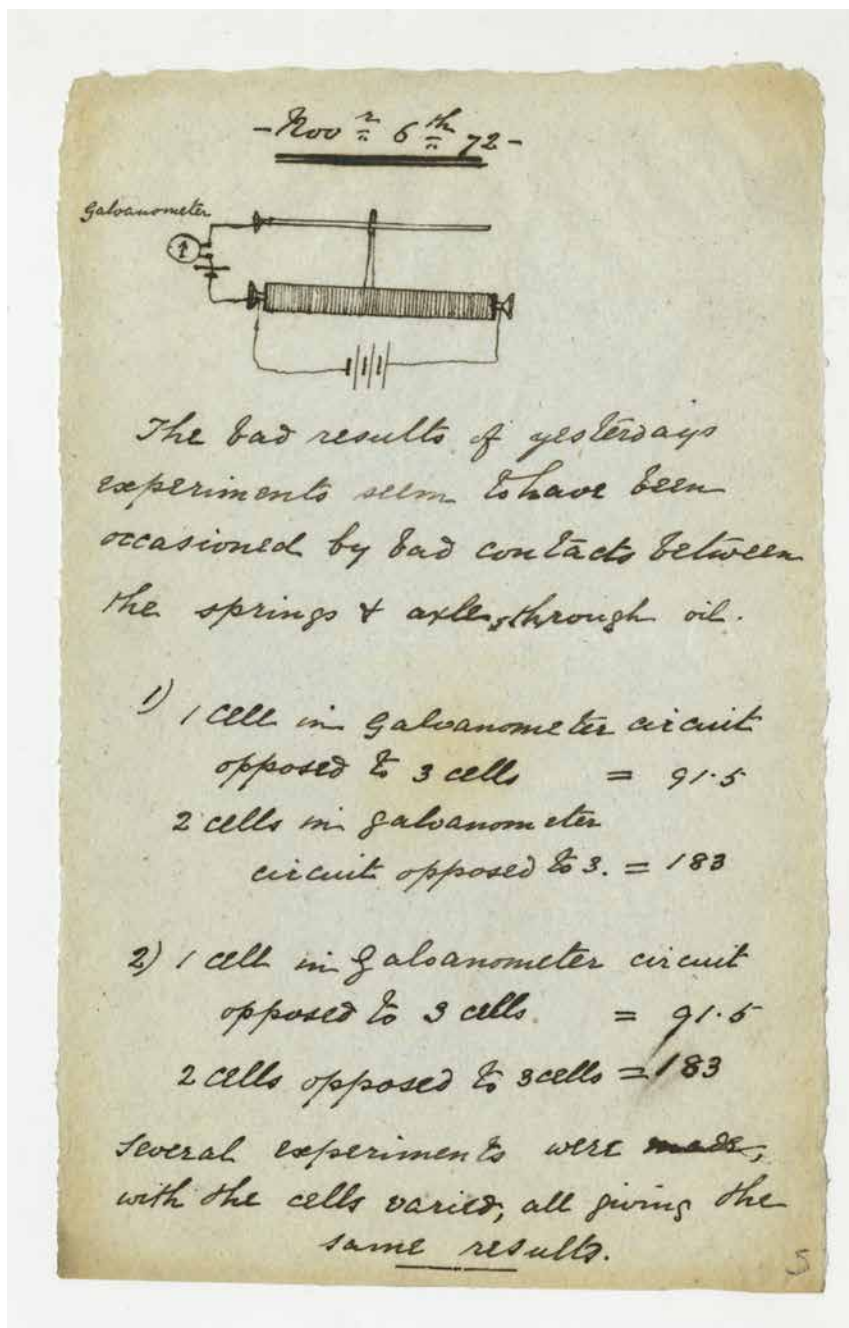
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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), chemist and electrical engineer, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Nov 5, page 2.

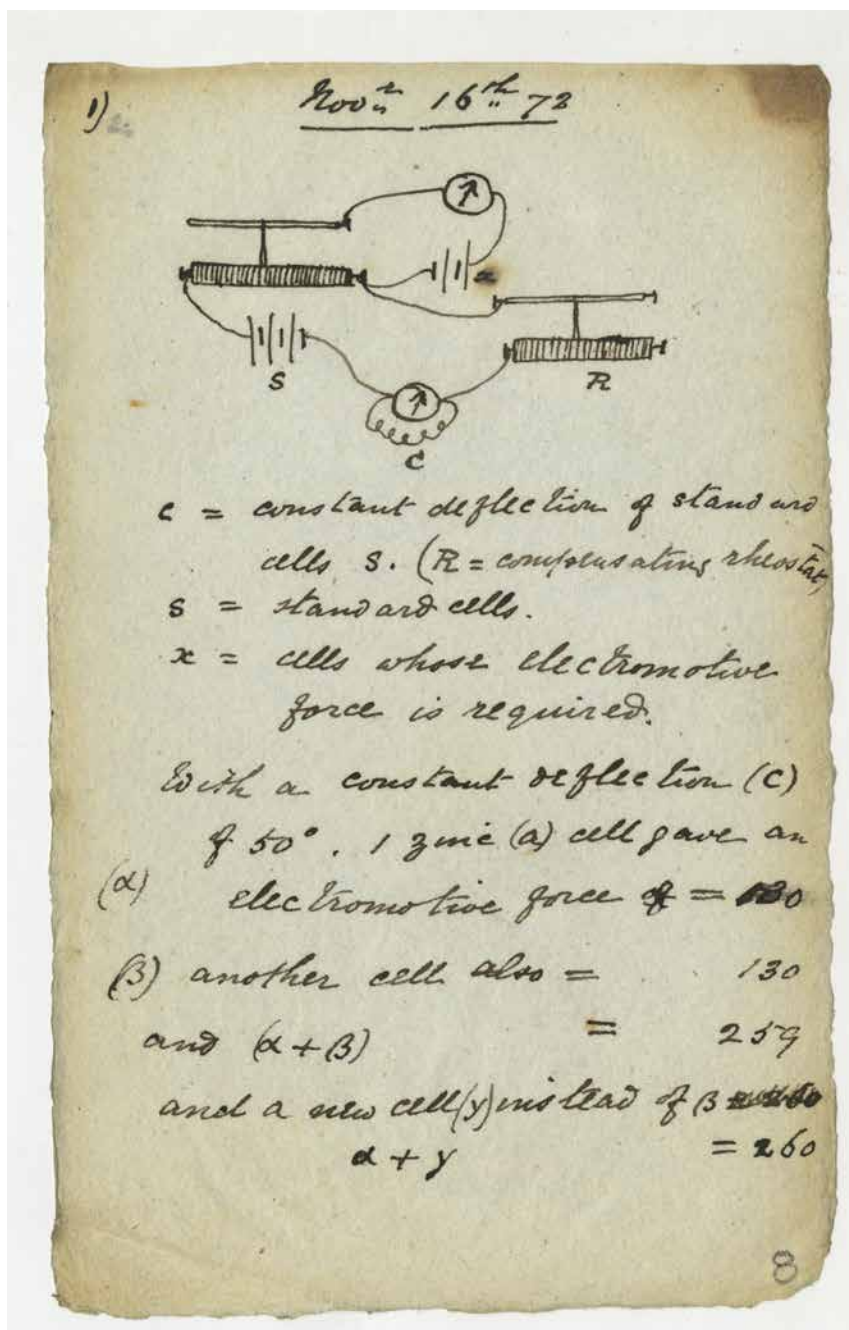
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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), on Standard cells applying an apparently innovative methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Nov 6.

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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), on Standard cells applying an apparently innovative methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Nov 16, page 1.

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Nov<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 72 -

The deflection (C) then gradually fell causing a necessary alteration of the compensating rheostat (R) which caused the measuring rheostat to vary from 260 to 255 turns & afterwards to 251 turns.

I then changed the sulphate in the 3 standard cells & the deflection fell lower in the constant galvanometer. Instead of 260 turns, as at first, it was 235 turns.

I then changed the zincs but kept the same porous cells & when I again read the turns had decreased

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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Nov 16, page 2.

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3). - Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 72 -  
 to 228 for 2 cells opposed  
 + 114 for 1 cell -  
 The cells always remained =  
 to one another.  
 I then changed the zincs of  
 the two opposed cells & found  
 the same results as before  
 viz 228 & 114  
 I then put a very little sulphate  
 in one cell & its electro motive  
 force was equal to 111.5  
 & the other which was  
 full of  $\text{CuSO}_4$  also gave <sup>turns</sup>  
 as its electro motive force 111.5  
 Thus showing the quantity  
 of sulphate made no difference  
 N. B. The deflection of the  
 constant galvanometer (C)

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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Nov 16, page 3.

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A) was always kept at the same  
 point viz,  $50^\circ$ , when the  
 electromotive force of 1 cell  
 was equalled to both  $130 \times 1/14$   
 showing the intensity had  
 remained the same in both  
 cases

Ex. B. I found that, whereas  
 the standard deflection  
 had been  $50$  all the morning  
 on my breaking & then  
 again making the circuit  
 the needle instead of  
 returning to  $50^\circ$  as before  
 remained at  $32^\circ$  & although  
 it remained for an hour  
 with the current constantly  
 on, never varied. This may

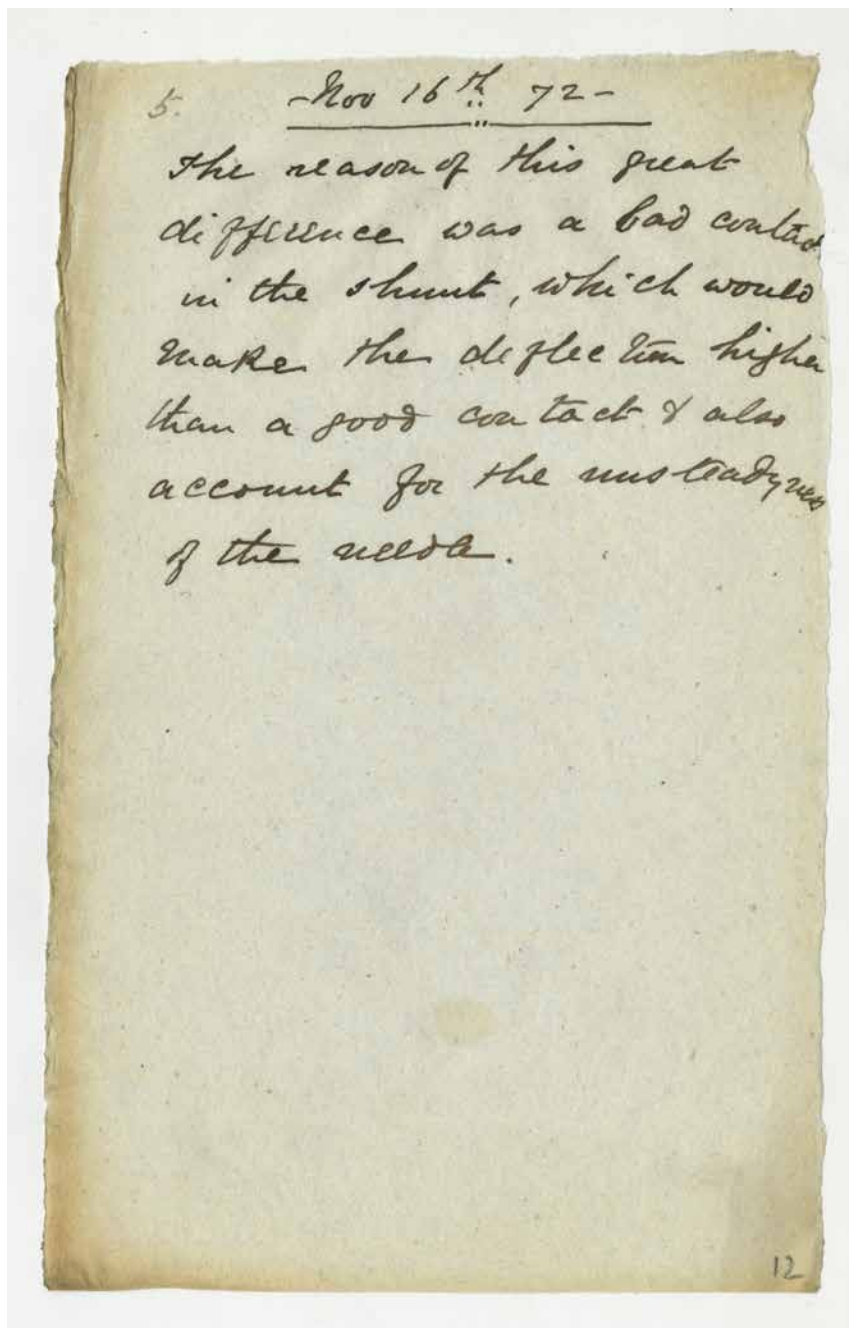
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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Nov 16, page 4.



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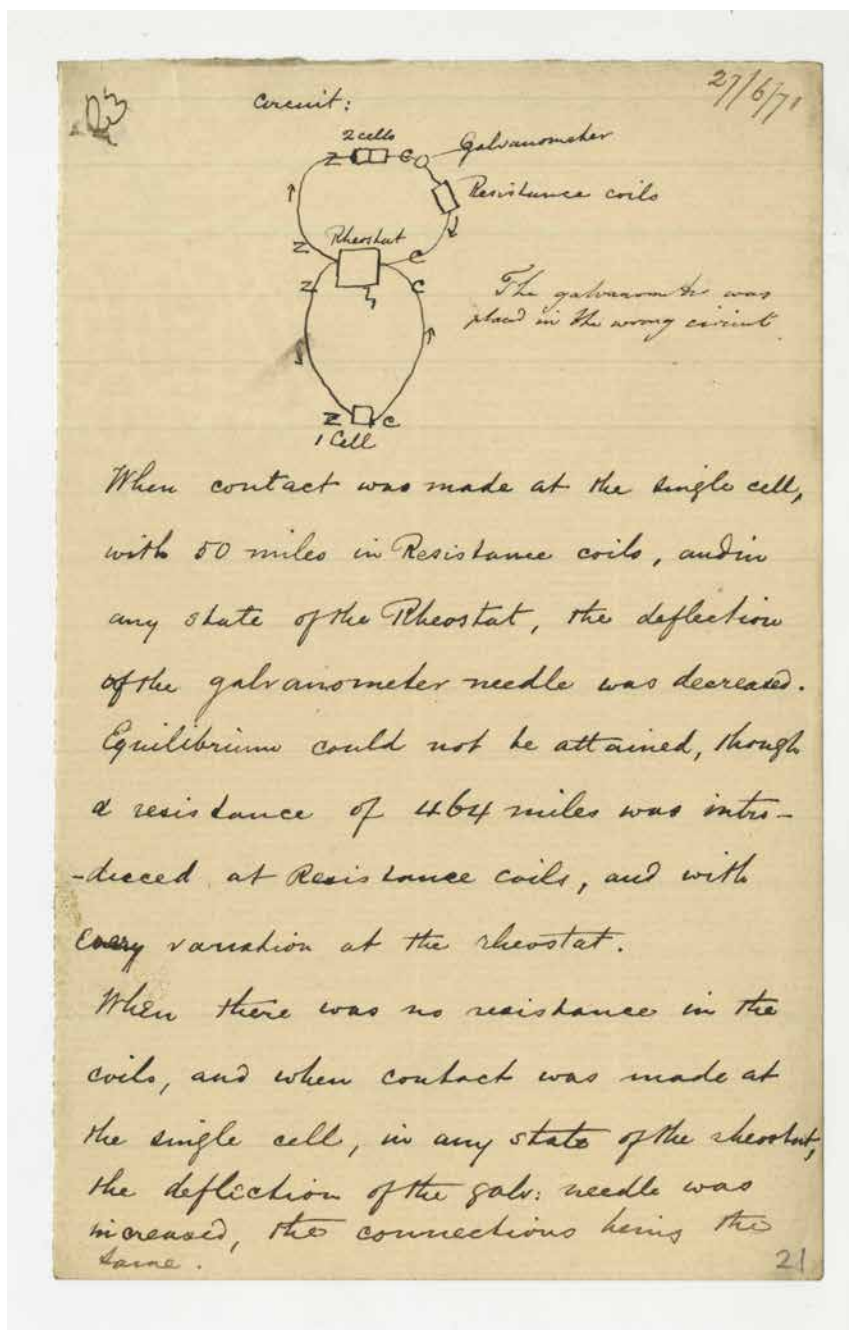
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Experimental notes by John Rymer Jones (1851-[1919]), on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Nov 16, page 5.

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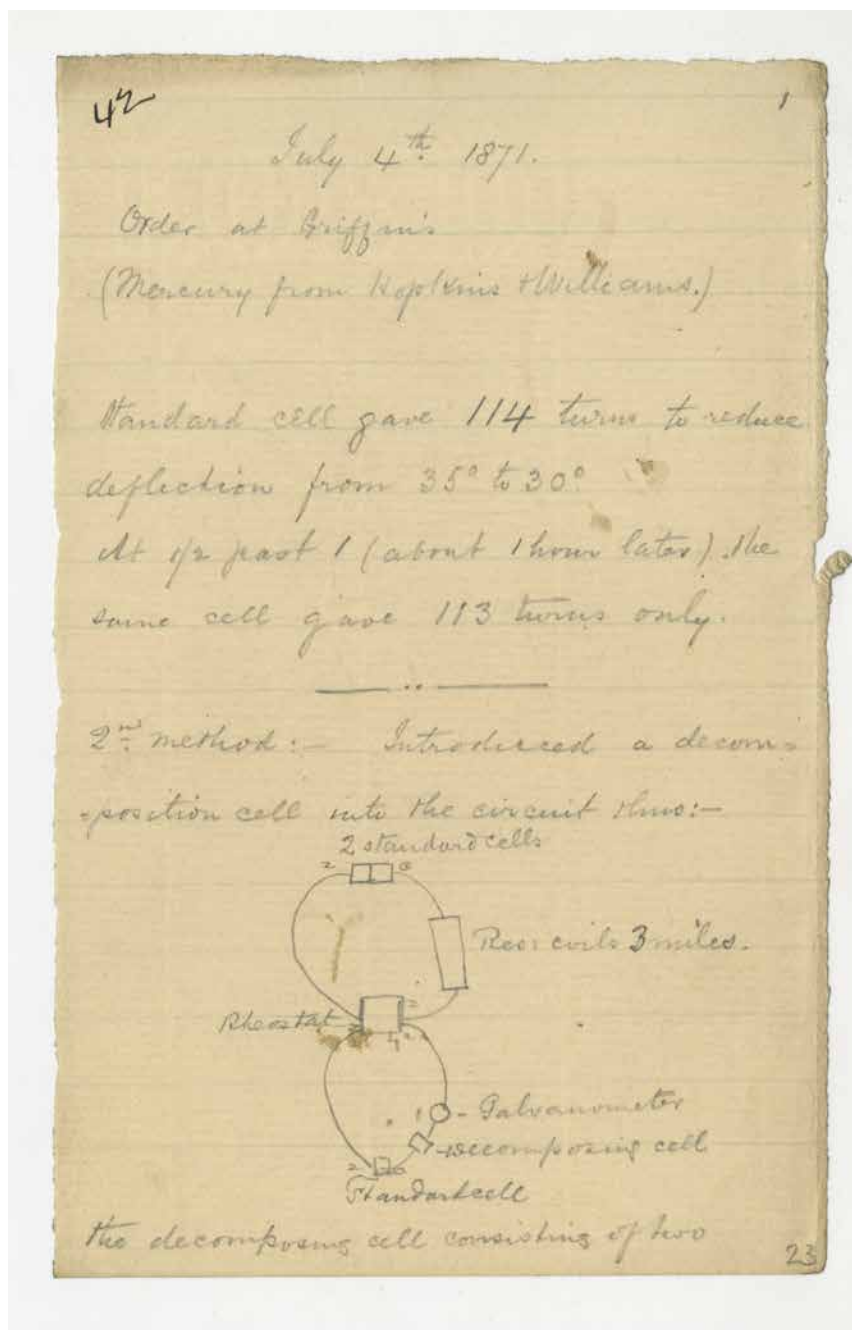


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Jun 27.

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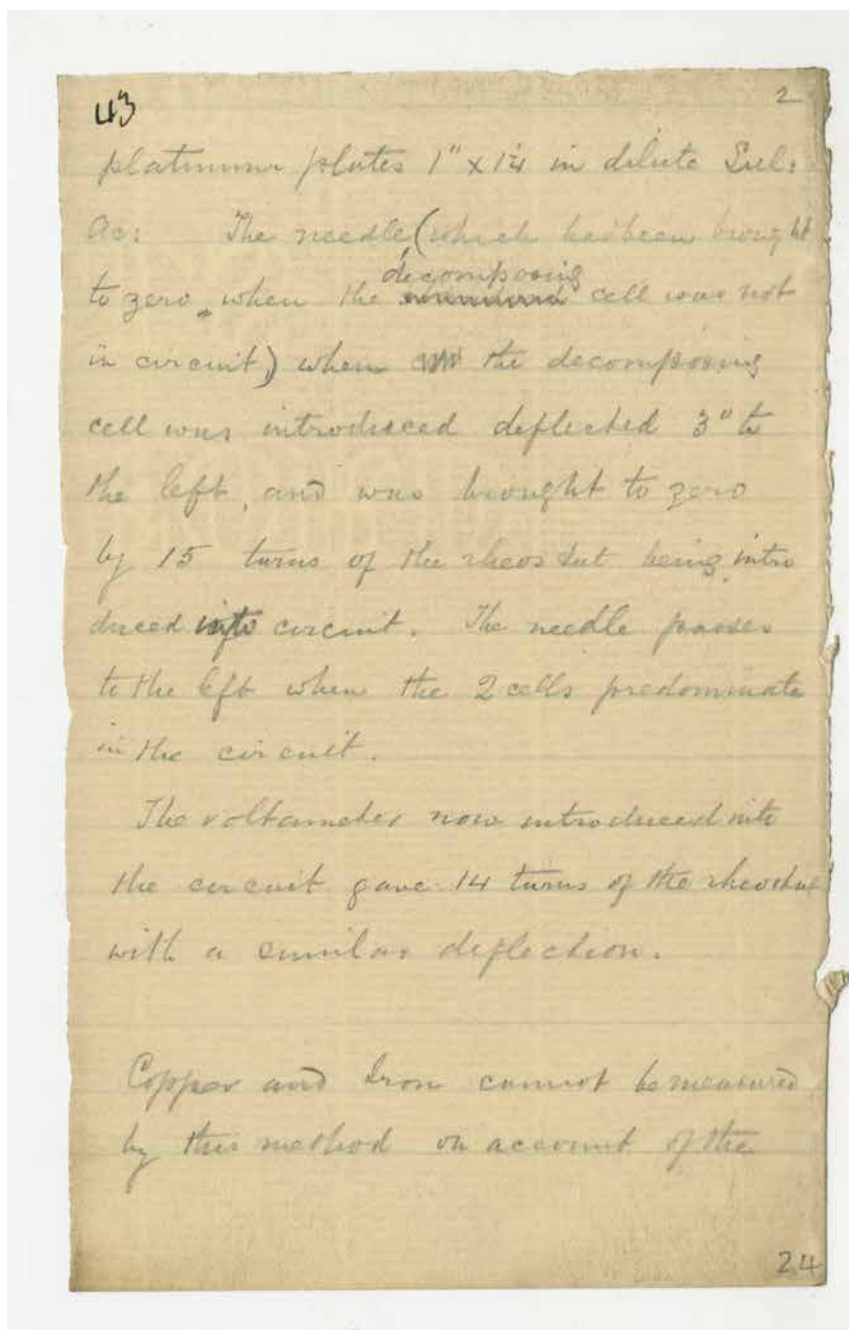
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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Jul 4, page 1.

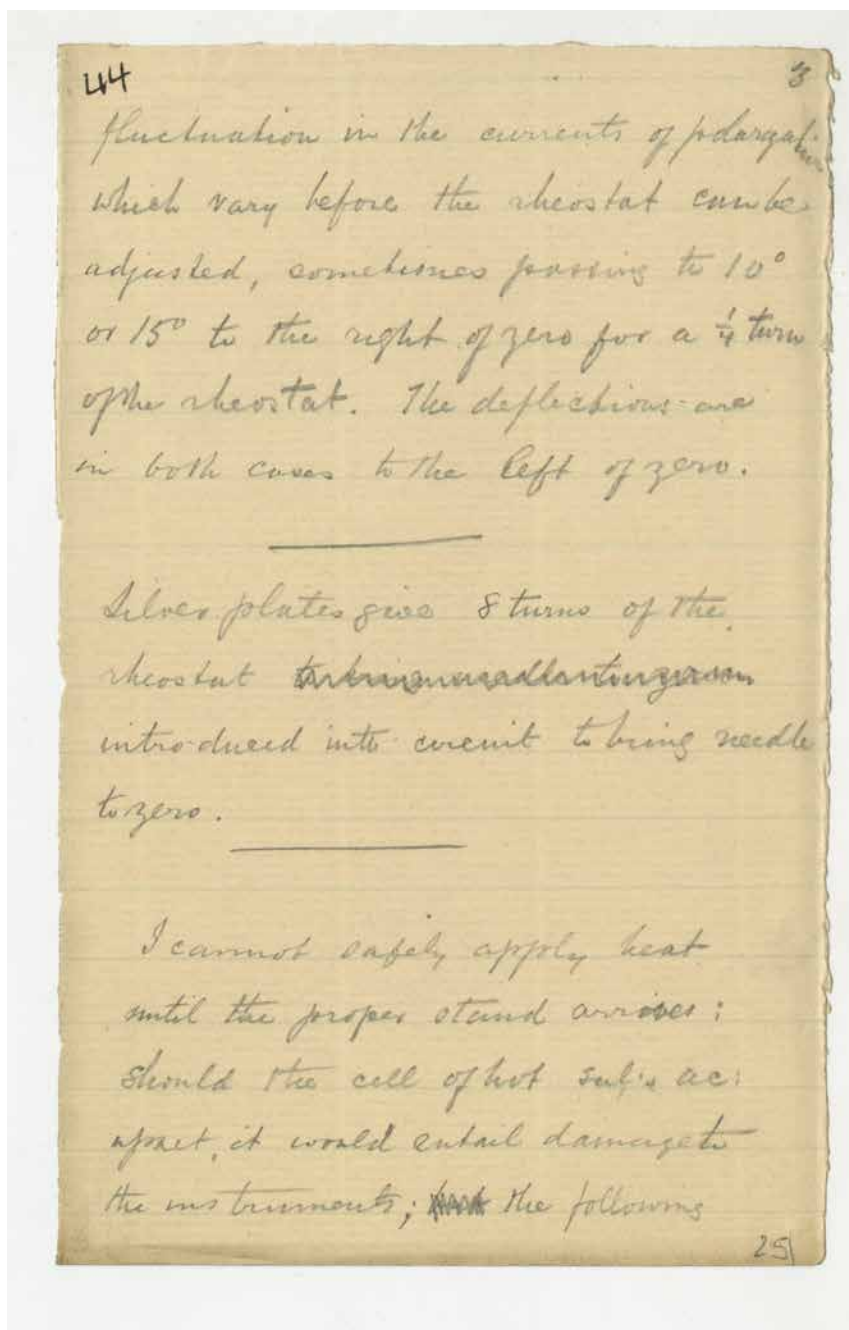
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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Jul 4, page 2.

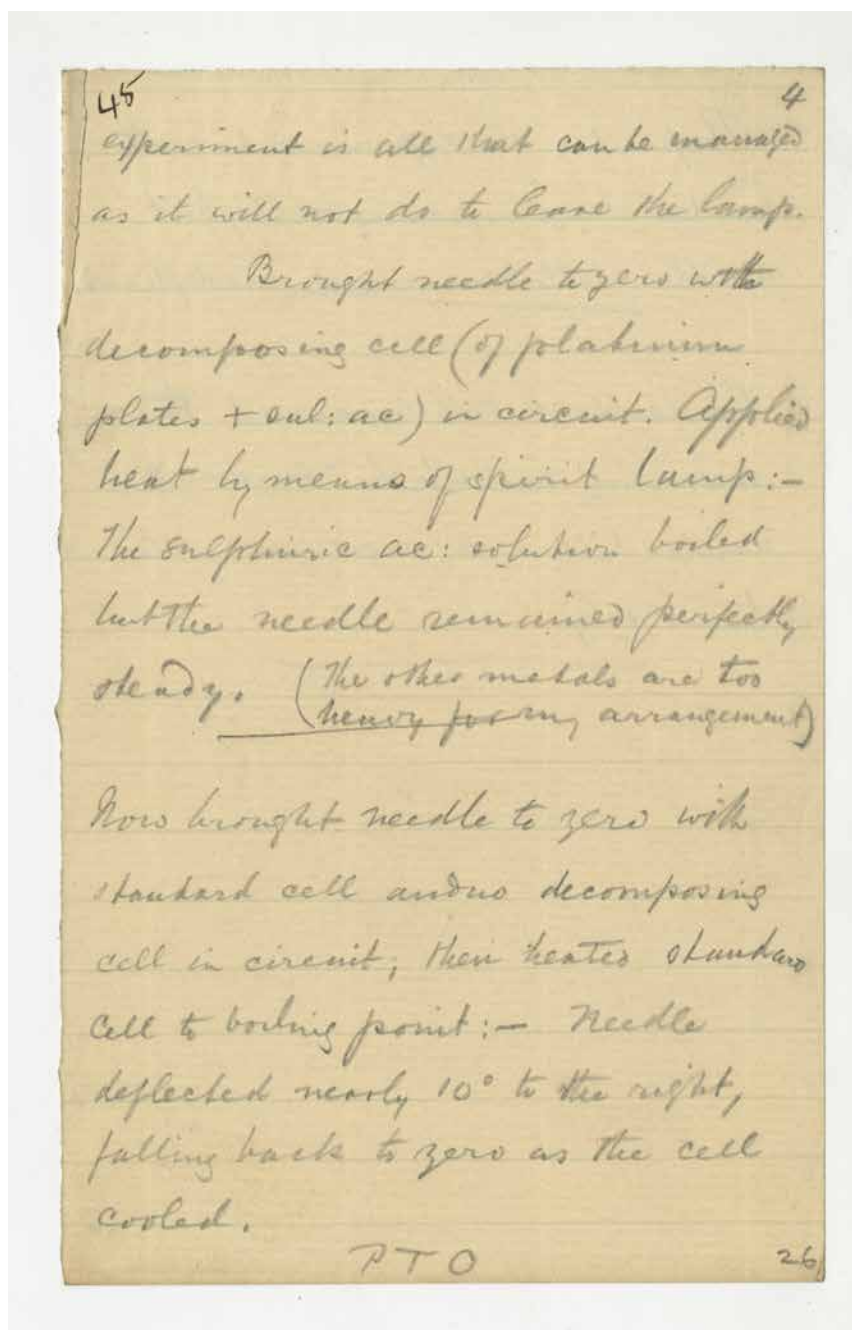
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K/PP107/2/2/25

Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Jul 4, page 3.

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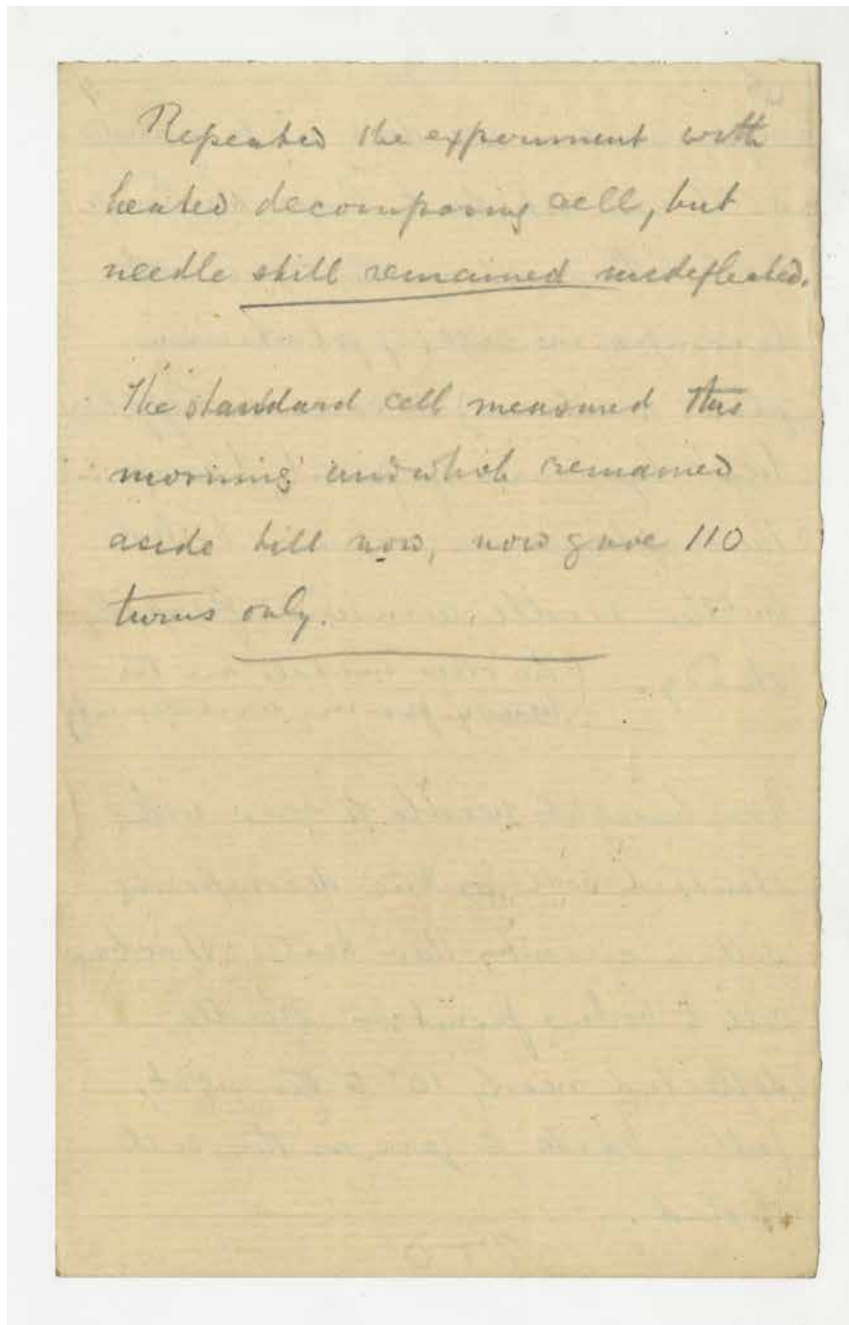


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Jul 4, page 4.

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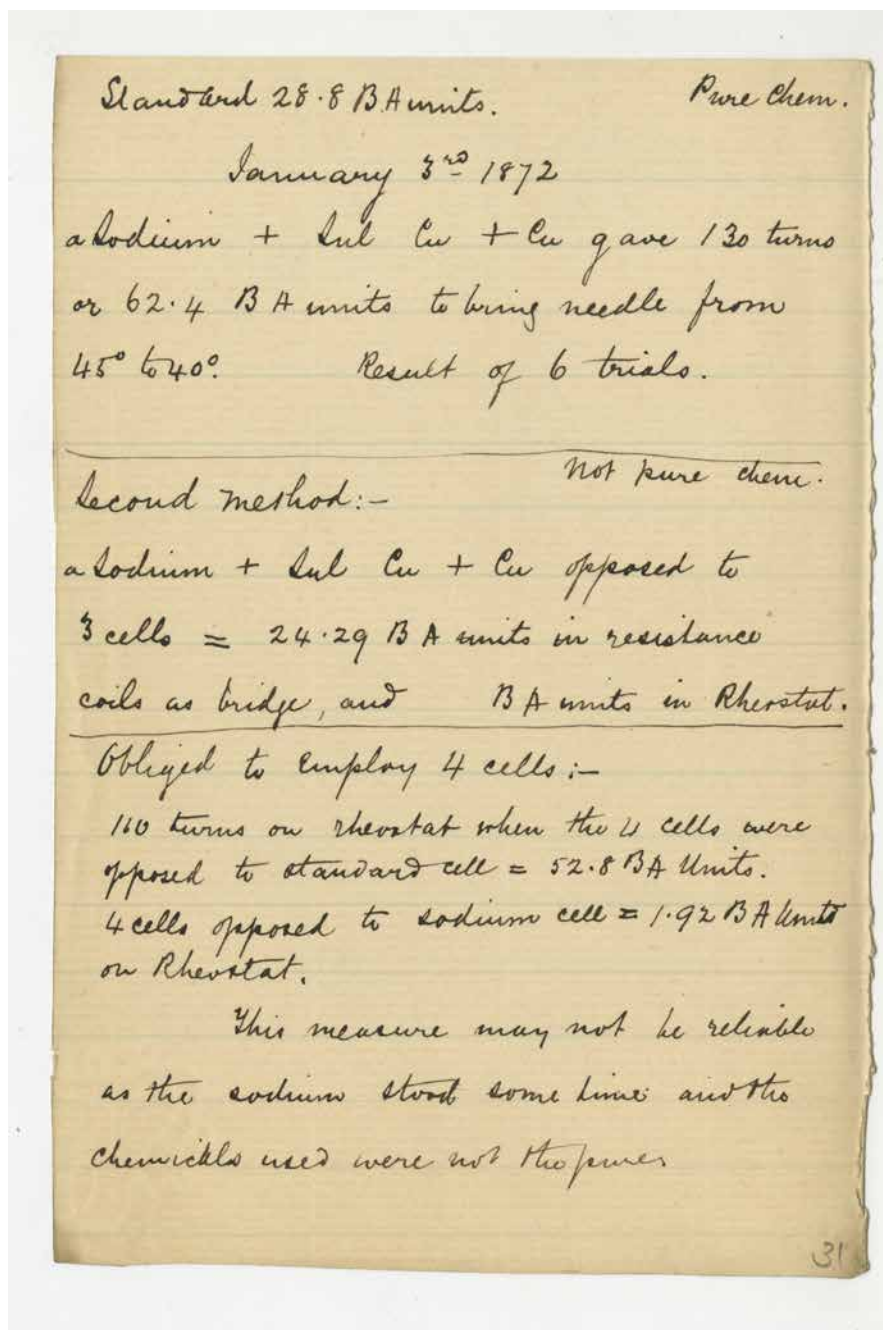


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on Standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1871 Jul 4, page 5.

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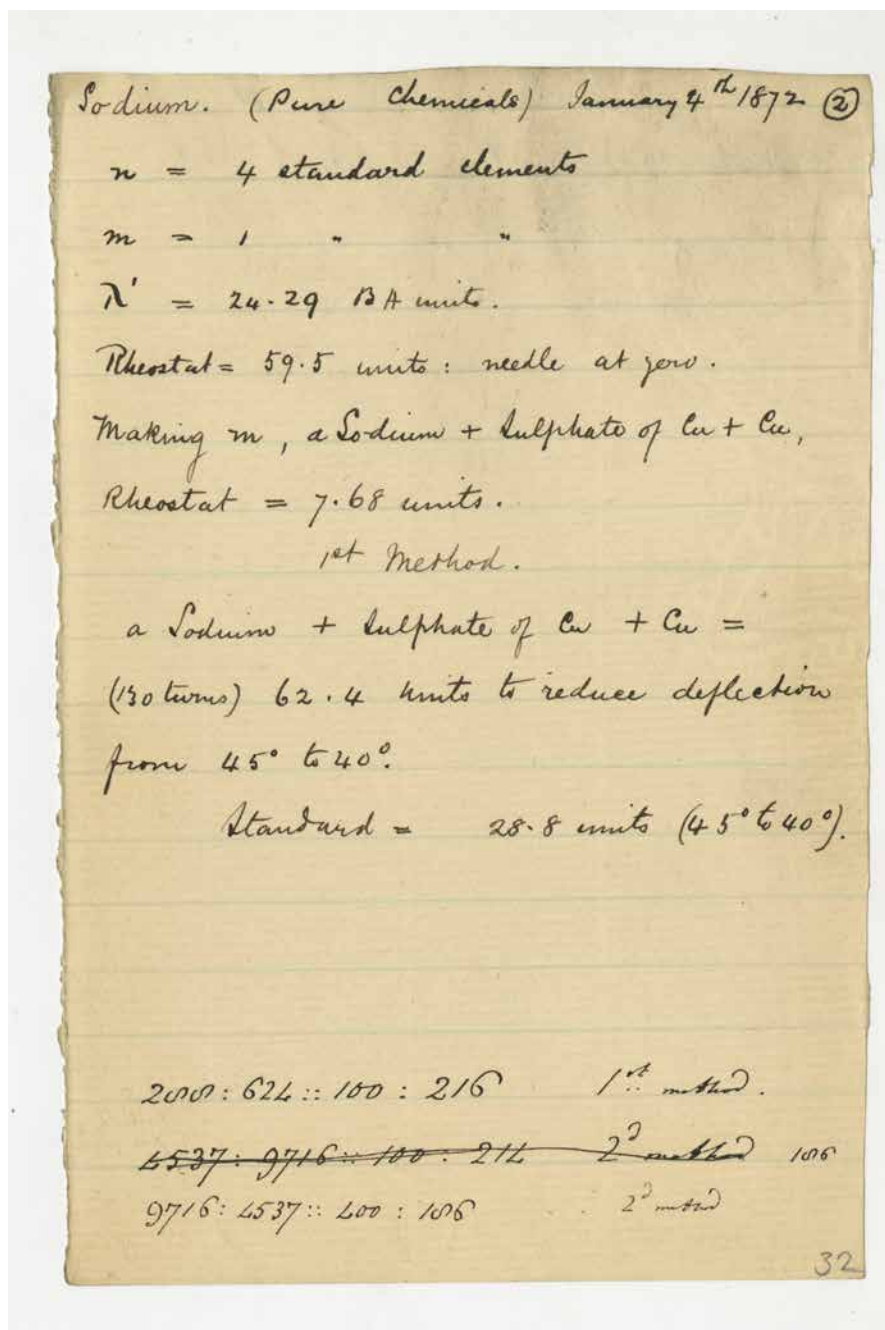


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Jan 3, page 1.



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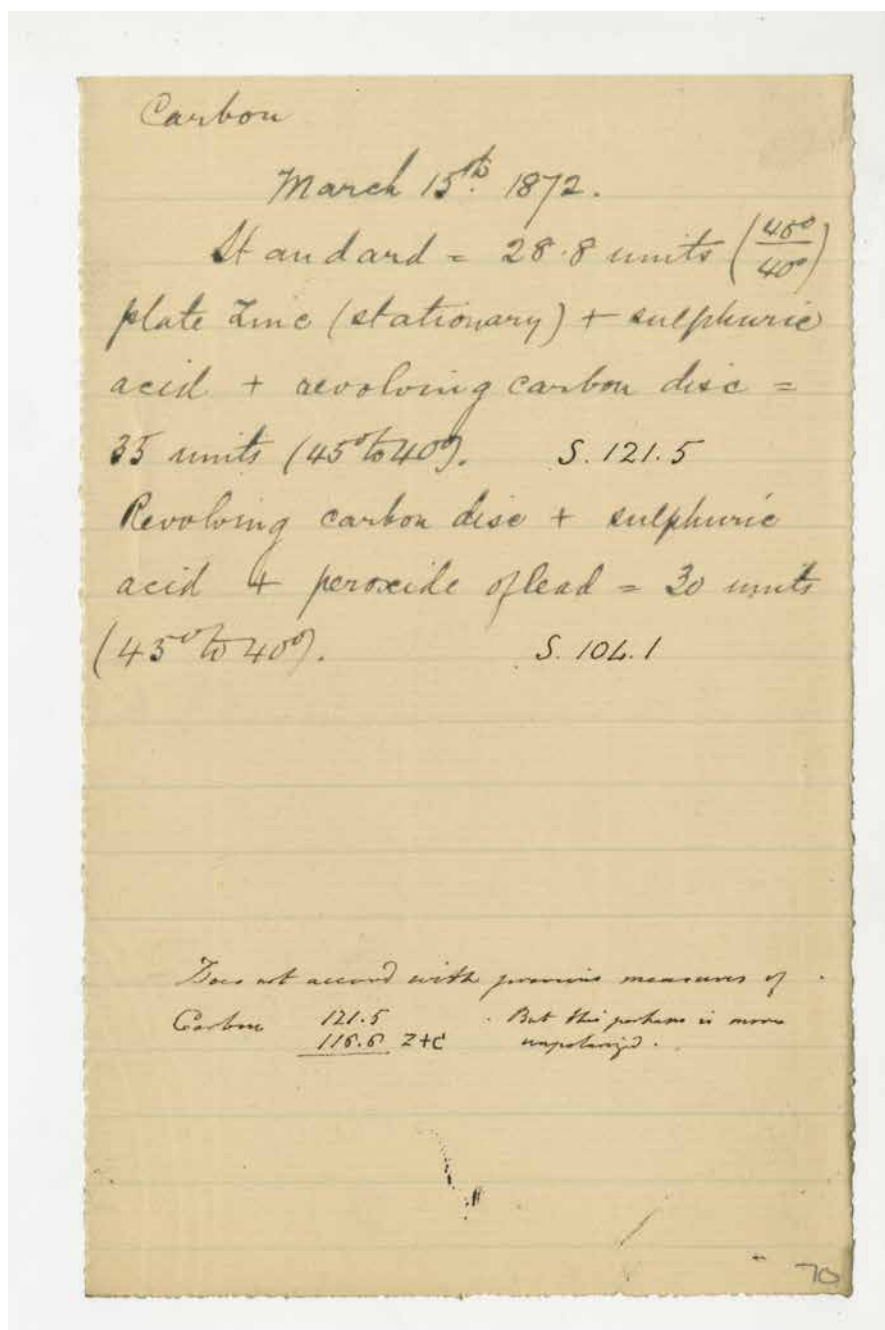


K/PP107/2/2/32

Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, on standard cells applying an apparently innovatory methodology described by Johann Christian Poggendorf (1796-1877), German physicist, 1872 Jan 4, page 2.

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K/PP107/2/2/70

Notes from a bundle on the use of an experimental apparatus consisting of rotating electrodes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, with annotations by Wheatstone, 1872 Mar 15.

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①

March 25<sup>th</sup> 1872.

Standard = 28.8 units  $\frac{45^\circ}{40^\circ}$

Zinc + sulphuric acid + copper -  
plates in rest or in motion - decomposes  
iodide of potassium solution when platinum  
electrodes are used, and when zinc-copper  
electrodes are used as in Faraday's  
experiment. When the zinc of the  
decomposing cell is attached (in series)  
to the copper of the active cell  
decomposition is very energetic. When  
zinc is opposed to zinc, as in Faraday's  
experiment there is a slight current  
in favour of the active cell, but  
the needle soon falls to zero. This  
current occurs when the plates  
of the active cell are or are not  
in motion. When not in motion the  
needle falls more quickly to zero. 72

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Note by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on the use of an experimental apparatus consisting of rotating electrodes used by Michael Faraday (1791-1867), natural philosopher, 1872 Mar 25, page 1.

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(2)

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1842.

Standard = 28.8 units ( $\frac{45}{40}$ ).

Opposed standard cell to cell consisting of zinc + Iodide of potassium + Copper. Decomposition while the copper plate is stationary; current (and slight decomposition while copper plate is ~~slow~~ rotating. I then took a copper and zinc wire moving them rapidly, in Iodide of potassium (while zinc being opposed to zinc of active cell) (that is in lieu of rotating plates of these two metals) there was no current and no decomposition. Both plates <sup>tested with thermo-current for conductivity.</sup> must be moved; one of the plates alone moved shows a current always in favour of the active cell. 73

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Note by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on the use of an experimental apparatus consisting of rotating electrodes used by Michael Faraday (1791-1867), natural philosopher, 1872 Mar 25, page 2.

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March 19<sup>th</sup> 1872.  
Standard = 28.8 units (45° to 40°).

4 Standard cells - decomposing cell with rotating electrode - dilute sulphuric acid - Ascertain electromotive force: - (a) Both electrodes at rest; (b) with negative electrode in motion; (c) positive electrode in motion. — Substitute the cell with two rotating electrodes; and ascertain electromotive at rest and in motion. — For these experiments take the electro-motive force from 70° to 65° - 45° to 40° - and from 20° to 15°. Double rotating appar.

-- Single rotating apparatus --

Degrees.	1 Standard cell	4 cells without decomposing cell. (By measure)	Hydrogen plate in motion. (Contrary temp)	Oxygen plate in motion. (Contrary temp)	Both at rest. (Contrary temp)	Both at rest. (Contrary temp)	Both in motion. (Contrary temp)
70° to 65°	12.0	48.0	<del>(48 - 22.6) =</del> <del>25.4</del> 28.8 220	24.0 200	25.4 21.3 (115 - 48) =	25.4 (115 - 48) =	0 (115 - 114.5) =
45° to 40°	28.8	115.0	(115 - 55.2) = 59.8 207.6	(115 - 60.5) = 54.5 109.2	67.0 232.6	67.0	(not measured too small) (544.8 - 544.7) = 0.1 too small to measure.
20° to 15°	136.32	544.8	(544.8 - 150) = 394.8 209.0	(544.8 - 192) = 352.8	(544.8 - 276) = 268.0 115.9 (a)	(544.8 - 276) = 268.0 (b)	

(a) and (b) were made with each instrument.  
The solution in both apparatus was of the same strength.  
Plates heated to expel hydrogen before each experiment and carefully cooled.

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Note by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on the use of an experimental apparatus consisting of rotating electrodes used by Michael Faraday (1791-1867), natural philosopher, 1872 Mar 19.

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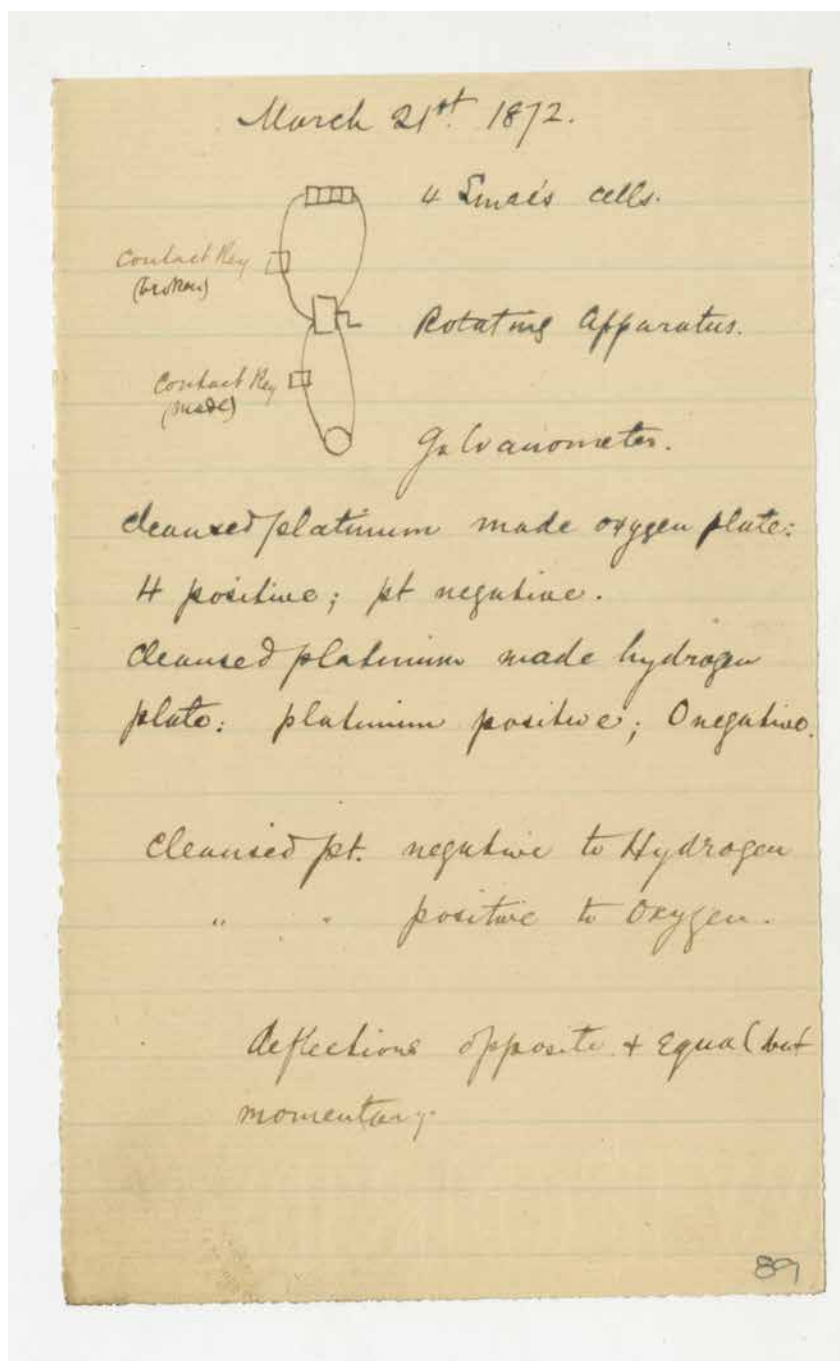
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January 26 <sup>th</sup> 1872. Standard $\leq 28.8$ units $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} 45^\circ \\ 40^\circ \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$	Standard Element.	B 4 Standard Element and decomposing cell of distilled water.	Sodium Element.	S 4 Standard Element and decomposing cell of $H_2SO_4$ + aqua.	Remarks
85° to 80°	= (a) units	units	14.40 units	units	(a) could not be taken.
80° - 75°	= 8.64 "	"	18.0 "	units	
75° - 70°	= 10.56 "	"	22.8 "	units	
70° - 65°	= 12.0 "	"	25.92 "	units	
65° - 60°	= 15.36 "	"	33.18 "	units	
60° - 55°	= 17.76 "	"	38.36 "	units	
55° - 50°	= 21.12 "	"	45.61 "	units	
50° - 45°	= 24.48 "	"	52.88 "	units	
45° - 40°	= 28.8 "	"	62.40 "	units	
40° - 35°	= 35.04 "	"	75.6 "	units	
35° - 30°	= 44.64 "	"	96.42 "	units	
30° - 25°	= 61.44 "	"	132.70 "	units	
25° - 20°	= 88.32 "	"	190.75 "	units	
20° - 15°	= 136.32 "	"	294.45 "	units	
15° - 10°	= 268.27 "	"	579.45 "	units	
10° - 5°	= 663.88 "	"	1433.9 "	units	
5° - 0°	= 0 "	"	0 "	units	
0° - 0°	= 0 "	"	0 "	units	
<p>With cells the electro-motive force almost exactly equalled 4 times the numbers in the first column.</p>					

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Experimental notes from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery - table of results by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, 1872 Jan 26.

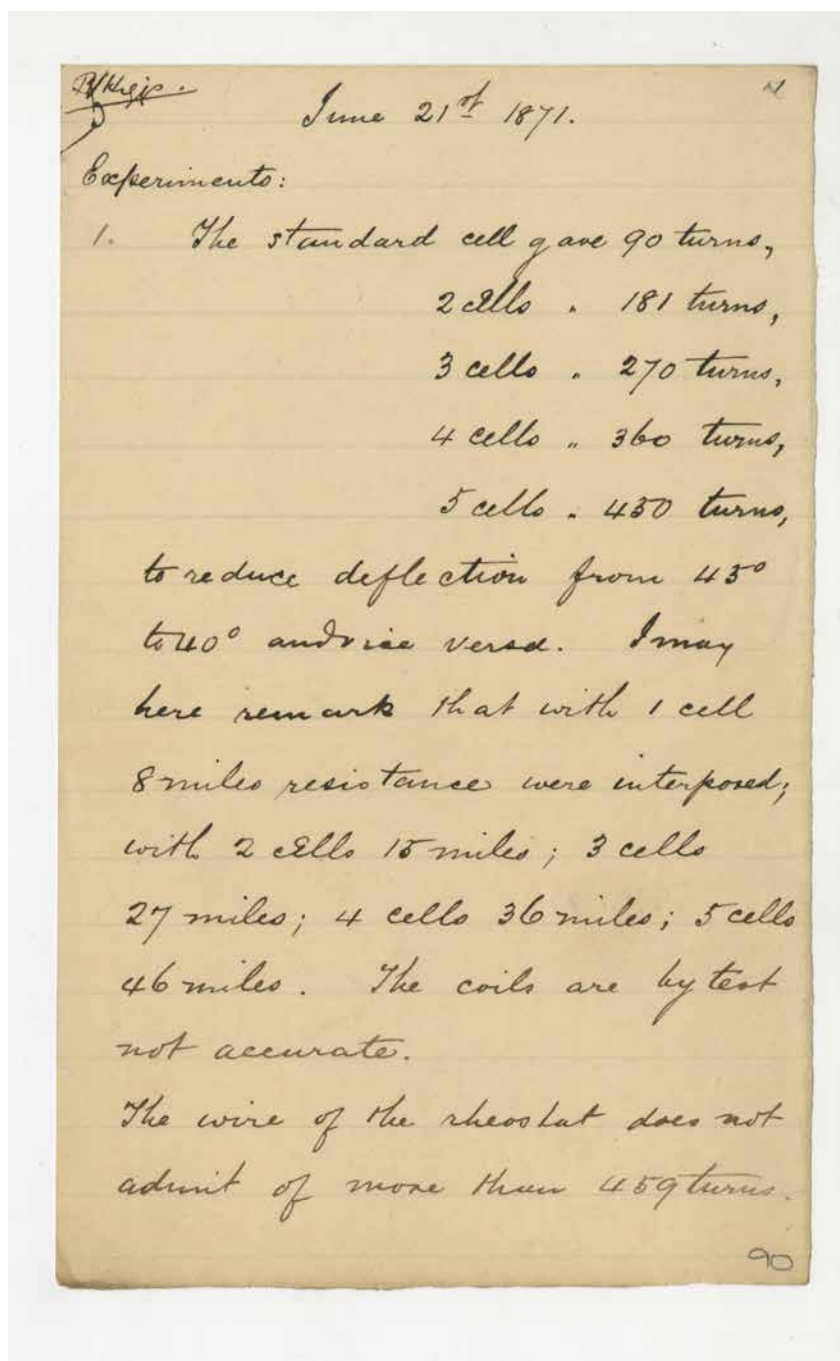
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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1872 Mar 21.

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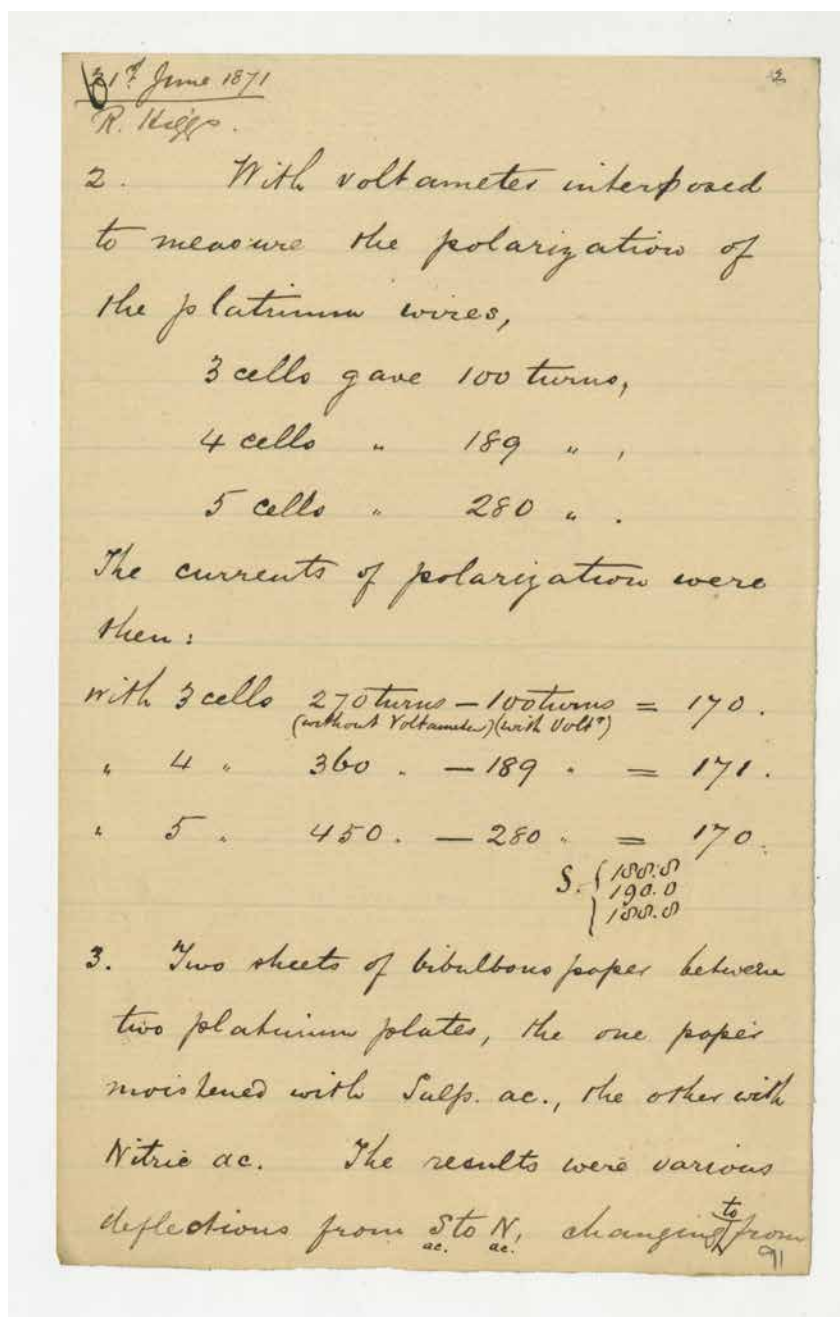


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1871 Jun 21, page 1.



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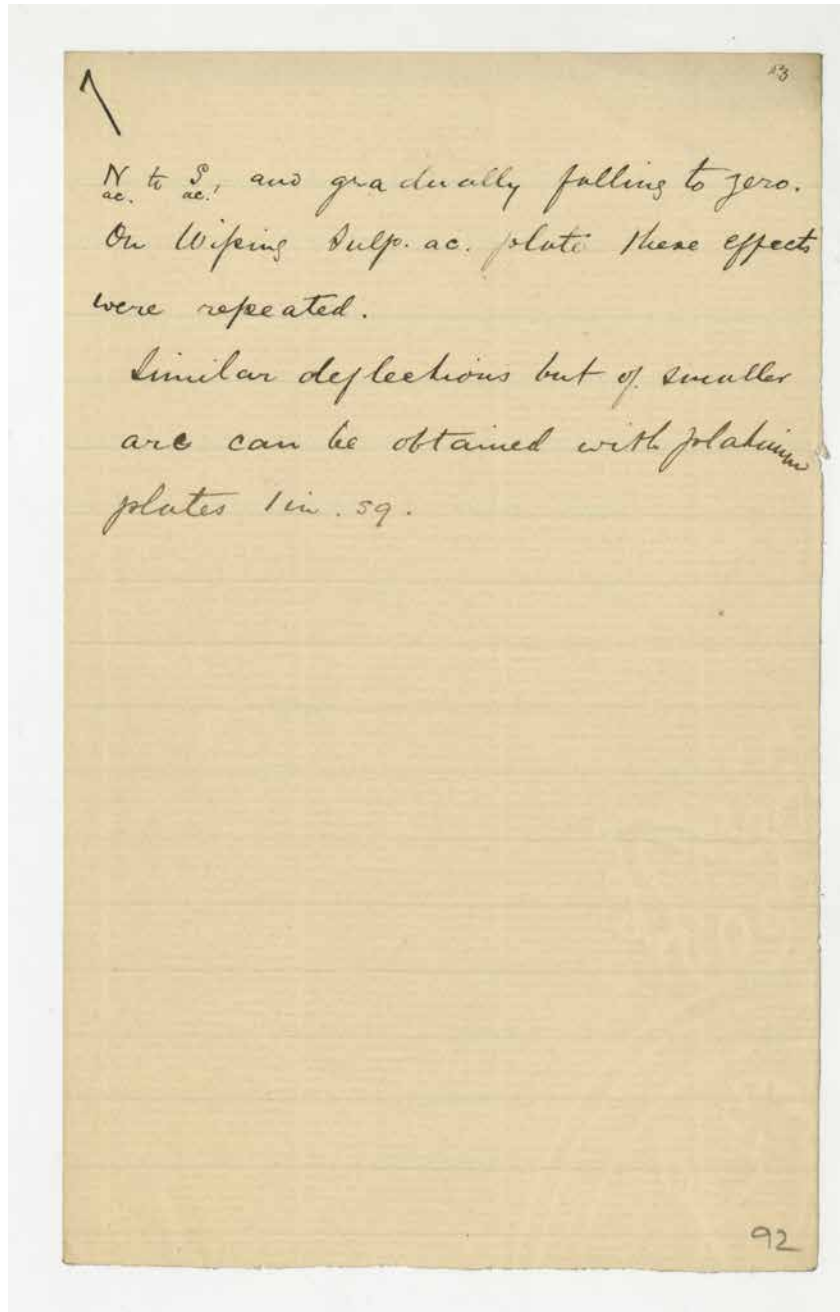


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1871 Jun 21, page 2.

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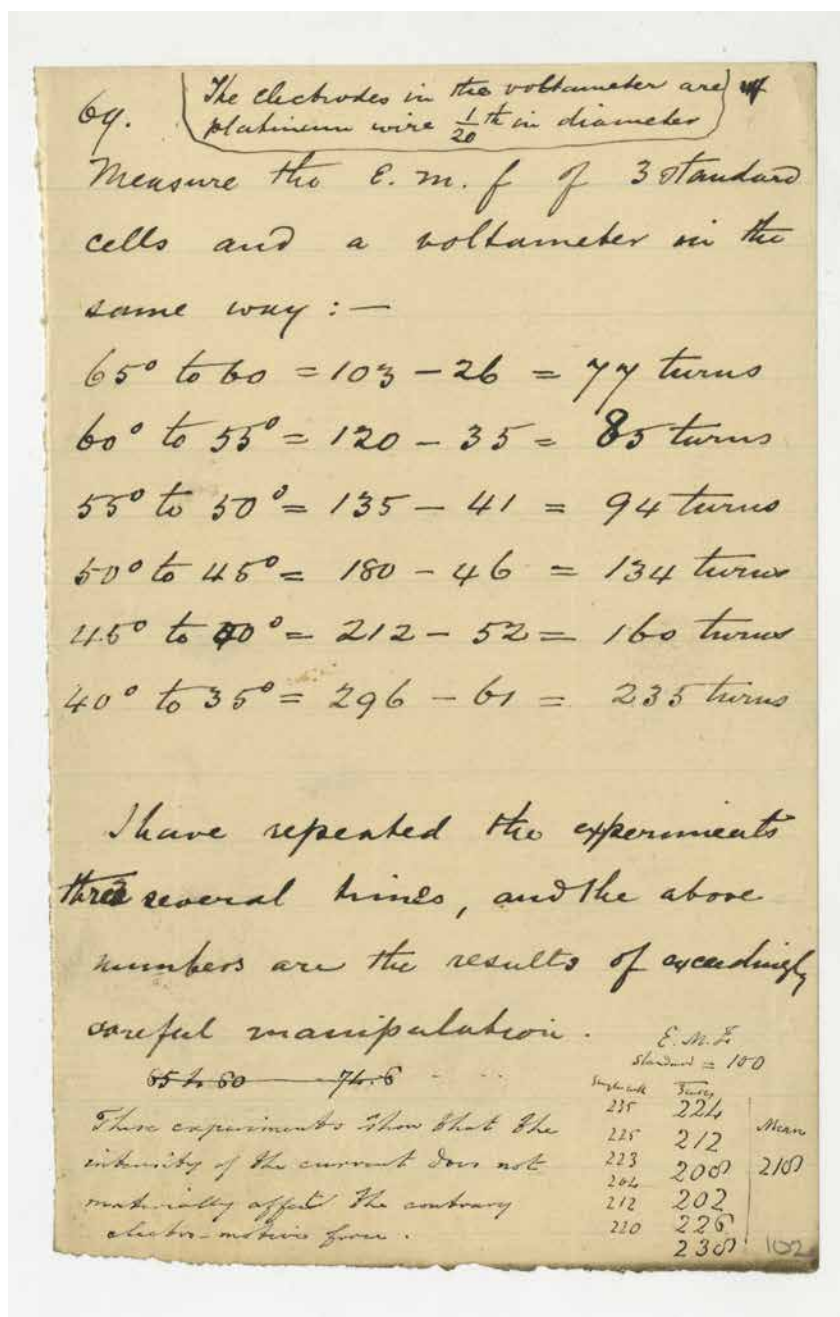


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1871 Jun 21, page 3.

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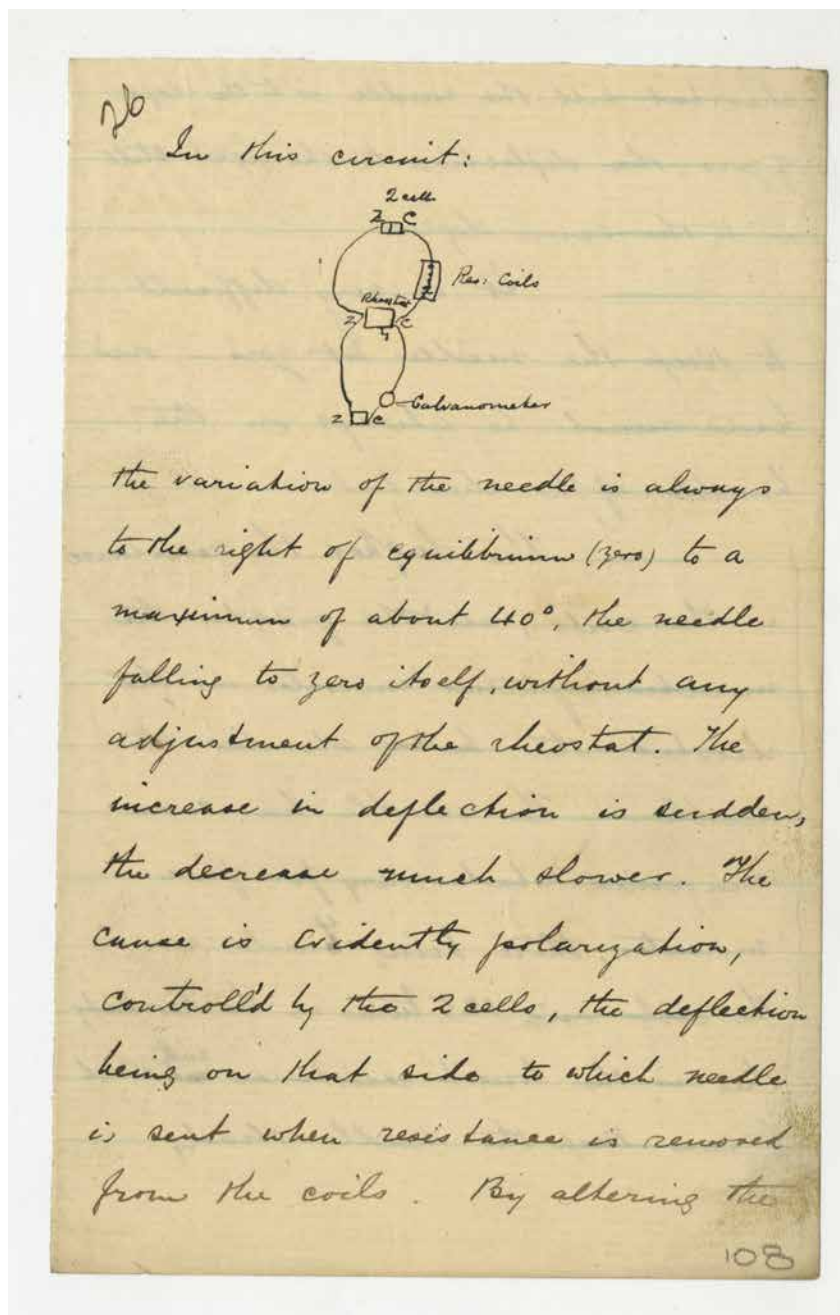


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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, [1871-1872].

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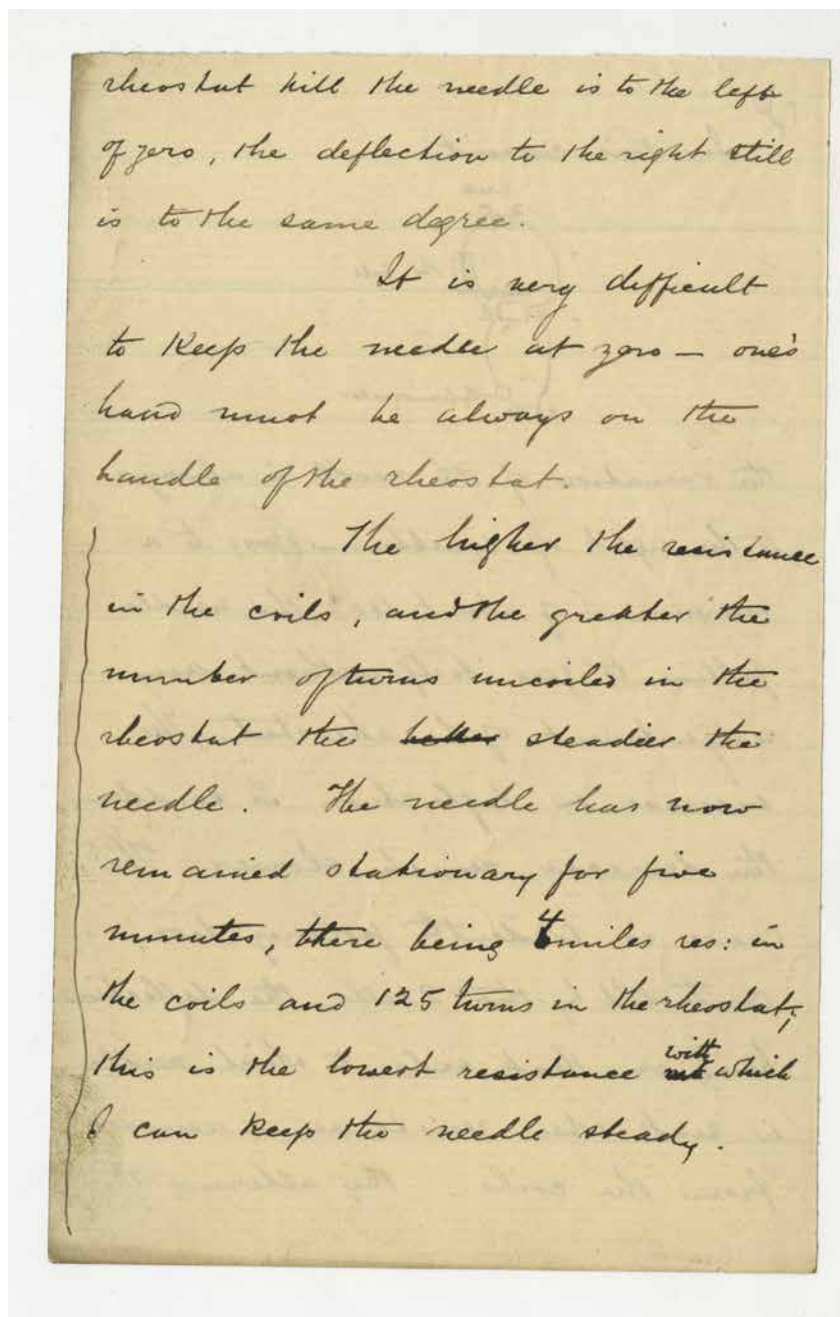
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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, [1871-1872], page 1.

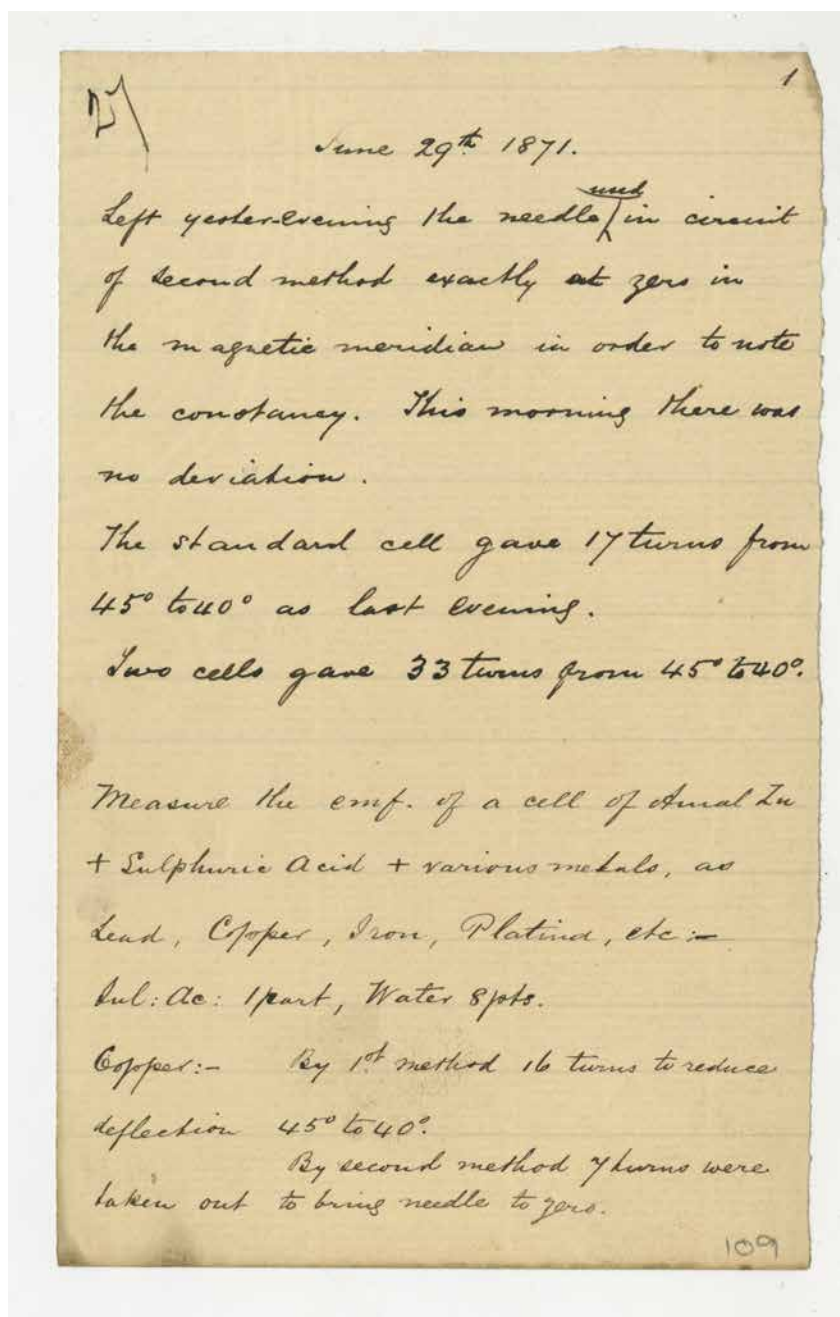
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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, [1871-1872], page 2.

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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1871 Jun 29.

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30 4

Repeated experiment with Platinum:—

15 turns were taken out to bring needle to zero. Left the cell for 5 minutes, needle had deflected to right; <sup>(10°)</sup> in about 5 minutes more it had returned to zero. Now wiped platinum needle deflected to left 5°. It was necessary to introduce 15 turns to bring needle to zero. Needle now remaining at zero, again wiped plate; when again put into cell needle deflected suddenly to right falling quickly to zero. Again wiped plate; no effect followed its reinsertion in cell. The needle now remained steadily at zero.

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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, [1871-1872].

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January 1<sup>st</sup> 1872

Grove's Gas Battery - Monday.

*with large resistance*

The gas battery had been left charged and disconnected since Saturday. The electro-motive force (45° to 40°) this morning = 36 turns as on Saturday, the standard being = 60 turns (45° to 40°).

Freshly charged the battery, and opposed 3 standard cells in the circuit with galvanometer, the connection between the charging battery being broken, and that with the galvanometer made instantaneously.

Electromotive force of 3 standard cells in sequence: -

A	=	60	}	by experiment
A+B	=	120		
A+B+C	=	180		

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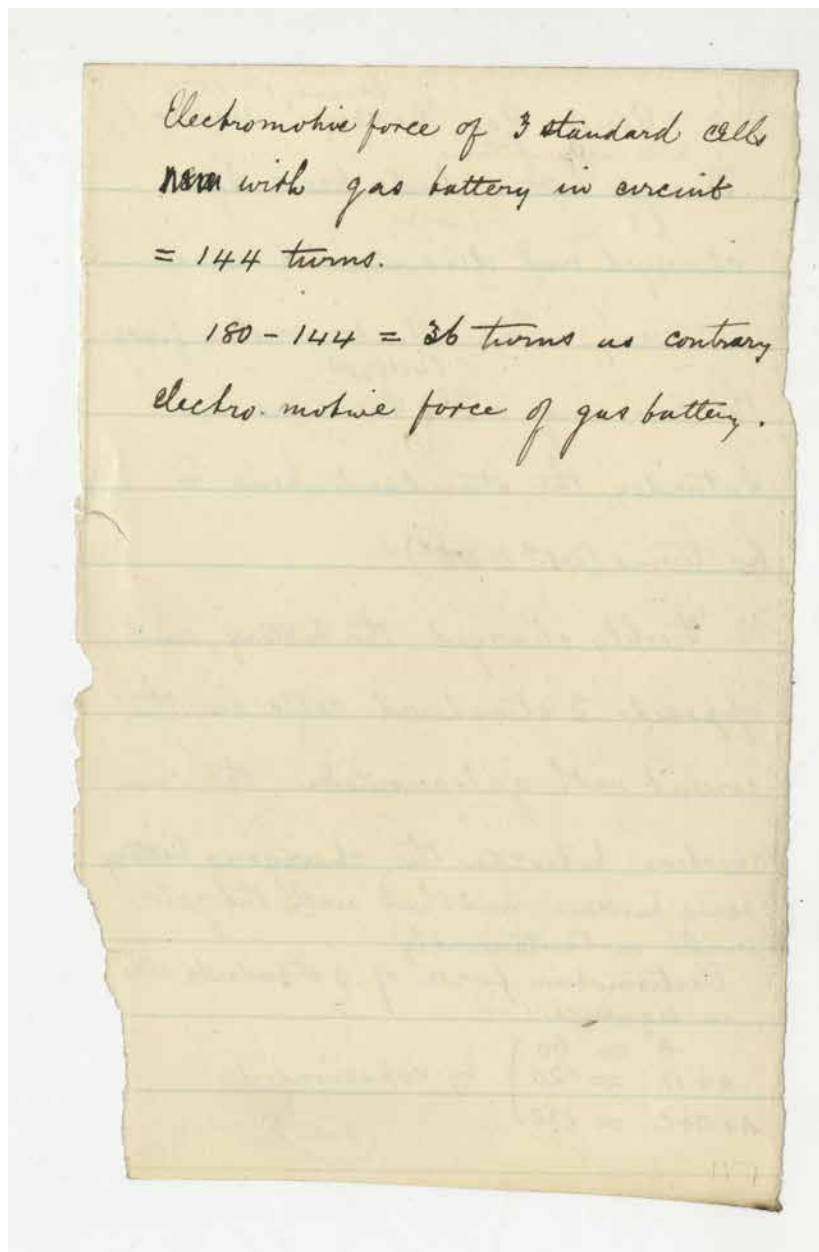
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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1872 Jan 1, page 1.



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Electromotive force of 3 standard cells  
~~now~~ with gas battery in circuit  
= 144 turns.

$180 - 144 = 36$  turns as contrary  
electro-motive force of gas battery.

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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1872 Jan 1, page 2.

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January 2. 1872  
Grove's Gas Battery.  
Contrary electro-motive force when  
opposed to 3 standard cells:-  
1 inch of plates exposed to gases  
in gas battery gives  
 $180 - 144 = 36$  as the contrary  
electro-motive force.

2 inches of plates give  
 $180 - 144 = 36$  S. 60

3 inches of plates give  
 $180 - 144 = 36$  . . .

4 inches " " "  
 $180 - 144 = 36$

Whole plate  
 $180 - 144 = 36$ .

Has the spongy platinum upon  
the platinum plates of the gas-battery  
any effect upon the electro-motive  
force?

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Experimental notes by Richard William Mellingford Higgs, chemist, from a bundle on contrary electromotive forces using William Robert Grove's (1811-1896), natural philosopher and judge, gas battery, 1872 Jan 2.