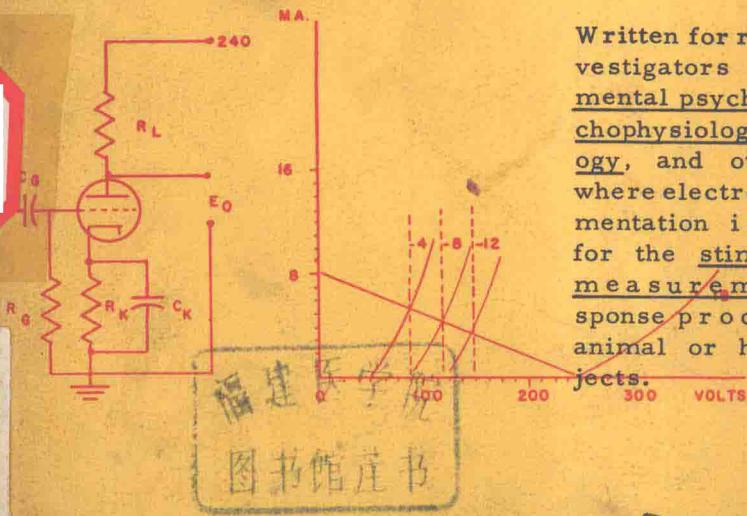


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# Electronic Instrumentation for the BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

A simplified  
presentation  
of basic  
electronic  
theory  
required for  
instrumentation  
problems.



American Lecture Series®



# ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTATION FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

*By*

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*Veterans Administration Hospital, Perry Point, Maryland*

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CHARLES C THOMAS • PUBLISHER

*Springfield • Illinois • U.S.A.*

CHARLES C THOMAS • PUBLISHER  
BANNERSTONE HOUSE  
301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A.

*Published simultaneously in the British Commonwealth of Nations by*  
BLACKWELL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS, LTD., OXFORD, ENGLAND

*Published simultaneously in Canada by*  
THE RYERSON PRESS, TORONTO

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 57-12537

*Printed in the United States of America*

**ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTATION  
FOR THE  
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

*Publication Number 320*

AMERICAN LECTURE SERIES ®

*A Monograph in*  
The BANNERSTONE DIVISION of  
AMERICAN LECTURES IN OBJECTIVE  
PSYCHIATRY

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## **FOREWORD**

W. HORSLEY GANTT

• • •

A knowledge of instruments is not only a keystone in research, but in our age, the complexity and diversity of instruments requires highly specialized knowledge of physics as well as biology. These authors are qualified in both respects. Dr. Clinton Brown has been one of my collaborators in psychopathological investigations of both patients and animals. The authors have a thorough understanding of the needs of research and a theoretical and also a practical knowledge of the necessary instruments. It is with great satisfaction that I have persuaded Dr. Clinton Brown to present the results of his experience with apparatus and instruments used in psychological research, a task in which he has solicited the useful collaboration of Dr. Saucer.

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ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTATION  
FOR THE  
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



## INSTRUMENTS AND BEHAVIOR

1.1. Some of the requisites for productive investigation in the behavioral sciences have undergone a drastic evolution in the last several decades. Fortunately, insight, skill and application are still the best of the primary tools of the researcher. Yet where it was once possible to begin an investigation with simple equipment (borrowed for the most part from classical physics), a speculative frame of mind and sound logic, it is now often necessary to expend a sizeable portion of research funds upon elaborate, costly and highly specialized equipment.

And this is not the total of expenditures, since it is most feasible to employ specialists to maintain and repair these research instruments.

Despite the advantages of increased sensitivity and accuracy of measurement provided by instrumentation, it may sometimes appear to the harassed investigator that his modern equipment represents a mixed blessing. This is particularly true since many researchers display basic prejudices against "gadgets," possibly based upon a lack of knowledge of the engineering principles involved.

Yet the need for complex instrumentation has arisen from a number of real sources.

First, much of the procedurally simple, pioneering type of investigation of more obvious behavior has already been performed. This does not imply that there are no new frontiers of investigation but only that there are relatively