

This historic book may have numerous typos, missing text or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1904. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... cuit was formed of two wires of different metals, if there be a difference in temperature at the juncture of these two metals an electrical current will be established. In this way heat may be transmitted directly into the energy of the current without the interposition of the steam - engine. Batteries constructed in this way are of low resistance, however, although by arranging several of them in series, currents of considerable strength can be generated. As yet, however, they are of little practical importance. About the middle of the century Clerk - Maxwell advanced the idea that light waves were really electromagnetic waves. If this were true and light proved to be simply one form of electrical energy, then the same would be true of radiant heat. Maxwell advanced this theory, but failed to substantiate it by experimental confirmation. But Dr. Heinrich Hertz, a few years later, by a series of experiments, demonstrated the correctness of Maxwells surmises. What are now called Hertzian waves are waves apparently identical with light waves, but of much lower pitch or period. In his experiments Hertz showed that, under proper conditions, electric sparks between polished balls were attended by ether waves of the same nature as those of light, but of a pitch of several millions of vibrations per second. These waves could be dealt with as if they were light waves -- reflected, refracted, and polarized. These are the waves that are utilized in wireless telegraphy. ROENTGEN RAYS, OR X-RAYS In December of 1895 word came out of Germany of a scientific discovery that startled the world. It came Tol. m.--17 247 first as a rumor, little credited; then as a pronounced report; at last as a demonstration. It told of a new manifestation of energy, in virtue of which the ...

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