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By B. P. STOICHEFF, F.R.S.

Since the discovery of the Raman effect in 1928, extensive studies of light scattering in gases, liquids and solids have had a major impact on our knowledge of the structure of matter. New developments in technique and theory have continuously extended the application of light scattering to problems in physics, chemistry, and more recently in biology. The recent use of laser sources has caused a revolution in the field of light scattering, with promise of more precise measurements of molecular structures and of molecular dynamics, and important new applications and knowledge.