

seemed to me that his idea was that, in such cases, two or more water molecules tacked themselves on to a salt molecule, which I doubt.

I will look up the references to Ostwald etc. you kindly gave - the subject certainly wants to be completely restated from the other point of view - I wish you could find time to publish something of the sort.

I shall be very grateful if you will sometime send me your notes on my little book - the imperfections of which are getting increasingly clear to me. It will be some months before I shall begin to revise it for 2^d Edition as there is no sort of hurry

Very sincerely yours
Cecil D. Whetham



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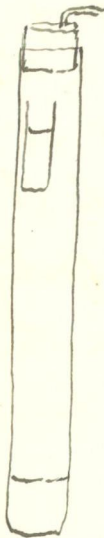
Oct 16. 96.

Dear Fitzgerald,

Very many thanks for the copy of your Helmholtz Lecture and for the two letters you have sent me. I am thinking of trying some such apparatus as you suggest. The idea which had occurred to me as applicable to dilute solutions

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was simply to realize Poynting's arrangement, and put some pure water at the bottom of a long and wide glass tube letting its vapour condense on the surface of a salt solution, till the difference in level was equivalent to the osmotic pressure. The salt solution must be kept stirred, and the whole apparatus in a stirred water bath at as constant a temperature as possible.



Your arrangement seems

however, much better, if the water can be kept in tension and some insoluble clay be discovered. I fancy the ^{discovery} ~~difficult~~ though in presence of an inert gas would be too slow to work with. As soon as I have time I mean to make a few preliminary experiments.

Poynting in his article says nothing about the ions being the active agents in hanging on to the water molecules in the case of electrolytes - and at the beginning of this week I wrote a letter to Nature suggesting such an extension. If you think that was what he had in mind I am sorry I did so, but it