

SYMPOSIUM ON FLUORESCENT X-RAY SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

By E. B. ASHCRAFT¹

Whenever primary X-rays of sufficiently short wavelength are absorbed by matter, the characteristic fluorescent X-rays of the elements in the specimen are excited. In recent years improvements in the generation of high intensity X-ray beams and in the means of detecting and measuring X-rays have made

this principle feasible as the basis for a method of quantitative analysis. Its practical value has been attested by numerous papers within the past five years. Because of the usefulness and newness of the method and because it falls within the scope of the activities of Committee E-2 on Emission Spectroscopy, it was thought to be particularly appropriate to sponsor a symposium at this time.

¹ Advisory Chemist, Westinghouse Research Laboratories, Pittsburgh, Pa.