

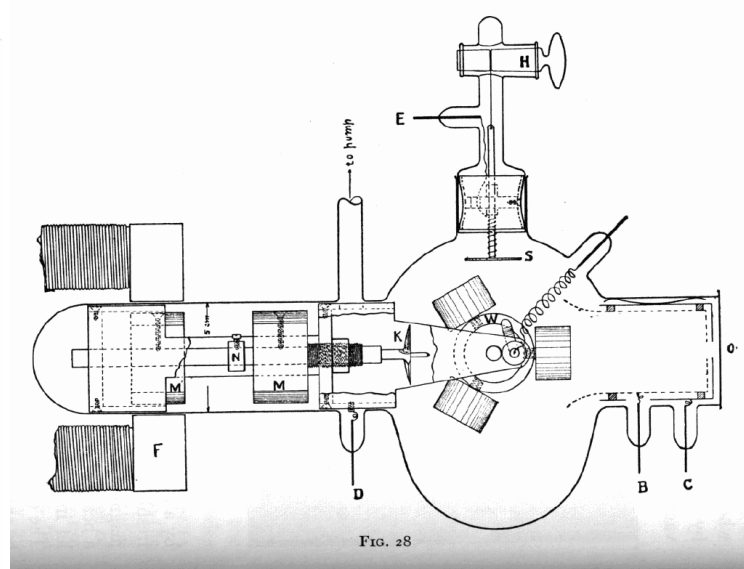
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November 11 2013

PBL Social Studies Connection

The Photoelectric effect aims to describe the effect of light energy causing the emissions of electrons from an electrode. Although consequences of this effect had been noted since mid-late 19th century, it was Albert Einstein who published a paper, describing how it works and how it happens.

In 1921, Albert Einstein won a Nobel Prize. It was not for his work on the theory of relativity; it was not for his work on a unified field theory; it was for his work discovering the law of the Photoelectric effect, which explained that light energy was carried in small, quantized packets, energizing the already excited electrons, allowing them to escape. This discovery eventually led to the quantum revolution, completely reinventing everything we knew about Newtonian Space previously.



Einstein and his experiment proving the photoelectric effect