



Marie Curie and the Discovery of Radium

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Originally published in 1920 as a portion of the author's larger work, "Eminent Chemists of Our Time," this Kindle edition, equivalent in length to a physical book of approximately 20 pages, describes the life and work of the discoverer of radium, Marie Curie.

Sample passage:

But the next observation was a momentous one. Madame Curie noticed that a sample of pitchblende, a mineral from which most of the uranium is extracted, showed an activity which was four to five times as great as the activity produced by the total amount of pure uranium that could be extracted from this sample. There was but one thing to conclude from this, and that was that some other element, more active than uranium, was present in the pitchblende.... It required but little calculation to show that the unknown element, if present in the ore, would be there in extremely minute quantity; the importance, therefore, of starting with large quantities of pitchblende in order to extract the element from it was obvious.

About the Author:

Benjamin Harrow, Ph.D. (1888-1970) was Associate in Physiological Chemistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Other works include "From Newton to Einstein," "Romance of the Atom," and "Textbook of Biochemistry."

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