ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author takes this opportunity to express his profound sense of gratitude to Professor B. Sanjeevaiah, M.Sc., Ph.D (Bristol), Head of the Department, for the valuable guidance, supervision and constant encouragement given throughout the course of the present investigations.

The author wishes to express his gratefulness to Mr. H. Sanjeevaiah for his helpful discussions and encouragement.

The author is thankful to Mr. K. Gopal and Mr. P. Venkataramaiah for their help and assistance at various stages of this work.

It is the pleasant duty of the author to acknowledge warmly the cooperation extended to him by Mr. Ramakrishna Gowda and Mr. K. S. Puttaswamy.

The skilful assistance rendered by the Mechanical Workshop, National Institute of Engineering, Mysore, particularly Professor Aprameya in fabricating the Collimating system used in the present studies is greatly acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Mr. R. Keshavan, Departmental Mechanic and Mr. C. Puttaiah, Electronic Technician for their assistance. The author thanks Mr. A. Govindaraja Setty for his neat typing of the thesis and Mr. C. Shankara Murthy, for copying the figures.

Finally the author is grateful to the University of Mysore for awarding him a UGC Post-graduate Research Scholarship during the years 1967-70 and to Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, former Head of the department for providing the necessary laboratory facilities.