

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Lowry, Thomas Martin

1874 - 1936

DEGREE: DSc

DATE: 1899

PLACE: Central Techn. Coll. London

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Armstrong

discovered that solutions of nitro-*d*-camphor showed a change in rotatory power with time - coined the term mutarotation to describe the phenomenon; investigated polarimetry and reversible isomeric change; measured the rotatory dispersion of quartz from the infra-red to the far ultra-violet; discovered that one of the characteristic frequencies in the Drude equation for the rotatory dispersion for camphor coincides with the characteristic frequency of the carbonyl group, leading to his hypothesis of induced dissymmetry; proposed an extended definition of acids and bases, advanced independently by Brønsted, in which a base is defined as a proton-donor and an acid as a proton-acceptor; coined the term prototropy; studied dissociation of SCl_2 , SCl_4 , and PCl_5 to lower chlorides plus chlorine.

1. *Dictionary of National Biography*; Smith, Elder & Co.: 1908-1986; (1931-1940), p547-548.
2. *Obit. Not. Fell. Roy. Soc.* **1936-38**, 2, 287-293.