

1974 Fleischmann *et al.*¹ were the first to report enhancement of the intensity of Raman scattering by molecules of pyridine adsorbed on an electrolytically roughened silver surface. There was first much scepticism about this report till it was shown^{2,3} without doubt that the enhancement is 10^6 times that predicted from the scattering cross-sections for bulk pyridine. The phenomenon is now known as surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS). It has been reviewed by Fleischmann and Hill⁴ and is the subject of a monograph⁵ published in 1982.

In the early eighties Fleischmann and his students opened up yet another area in electrochemistry. They found that shrinking the size of electrodes to a few microns was accompanied by many unexpected advantages⁶⁻⁹, e.g. (a) they do not pose problems of charging current, (b) they could be used to electrolyse gases¹⁰! Such electrodes have been used to construct a scanning electrochemical microscope¹¹ with nanometre resolution. This has ushered in the era of microelectrodes in electrochemistry.

Martin Fleischmann always had a flair for the unconventional, a spirit that he has transmitted to his students. The world of science is waiting for an explanation for another of his new 'impossible experiments' (with Stanley Pons)—whether the observations are really due to cold fusion.

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S. R. RAJAGOPALAN

Materials Science Division,
National Aeronautical Laboratory,
Bangalore 560 017.

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