

Purported interview with Elmer Gates in unidentified newspaper.
Date unknown.

“I have been experimenting with some light rays about five octaves above the violet—a form of wave energy somewhat akin to X-rays, but about as different from them as they are different from sound. This new radiant force is invisible when produced in an ordinary room, but I succeeded in making it visible by projecting it upon a wall coated with a substance whose color is altered by the action of the ray in question. This substance is rhodopsin—the visual purple of the retina, the seeing substance of the eye which light acts upon. This rhodopsin I extracted from the eyes of freshly slaughtered animals. I find that all known inorganic and inanimate substances are transparent to this force. Unlike the X-rays, they will shine through metals, bones and such substances, which I can hold between the tube emitting these rays and the wall covered with rhodopsin without their casting a shadow, so to speak, or causing the color of the wall to be changed over the corresponding area.

“I find that any living thing, however, is opaque to these rays and that it will cast a shadow as long as it retains life.

“A live rat is placed in a hermetically sealed glass tube held in the path of these rays and before the sensitized wall. As long as the rat remains alive it casts a shadow. On killing the animal it is found, after a certain lapse of time, that it becomes suddenly transparent.”

[Subsequent "statements" in the article, omitted here, were repudiated by Gates on numerous occasions as being spurious.]