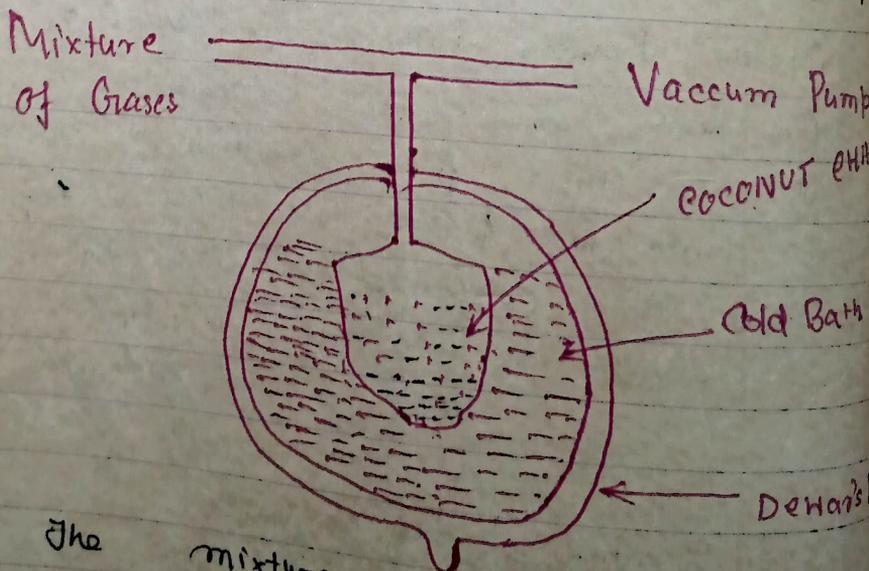


By the above process noble gases accumulate in flask. Some oxygen also remains in the flask.  $O_2$  gas is absorbed by alkaline Pyrogallol solution. Thus we get a mixture of noble gases. Noble gases are separated from other by the method of differential absorption through coconut charcoal.

Step (2) Separation of Gases from other by Dewar's Flask →

This method is based on differential absorption of these gases by charcoal. In this method the mixture is introduced into a bulb filled with charcoal and placed in a cold bath (ice) in a Dewar flask as shown in the figure.



The mixture of gas is allowed to remain here about for one hour. Argon, Krypton and Xenon are absorbed. Helium and Neon are unabsorbed gases. Helium and Neon are pumped out of the flask.

at  $-180^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Here Neon is absorbed and helium is obtained in free condition. Neon is recovered from this charcoal by heating. The first charcoal containing Argon, Krypton, and Xenon is brought into contact with a 2nd charcoal maintained at liquid air temperature. Argon diffuses into this charcoal and can be recovered by heating this charcoal. The first charcoal now contains Kr and Xe. Now, the temperature of this charcoal is raised up to  $-90^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Here Kr. separates out - Xenon remains on the charcoal.

It can be recovered by warming the charcoal.

### Extraction of Noble gases from liquid air $\rightarrow$

This method is based upon fractionation of liquid air this method is used to obtain noble gases at large scale. This method has developed by Rayleigh and Ramsay.

The B.P. of various constituents of air at 760 mm. are given below.

Elements	B.P.
He	$-269$
Ne	$-248.5$
$\text{N}_2$	$-195.8$
Ar	$-185.9$
Kr	$-153.3$
O	$-183$
Rn	$-61$

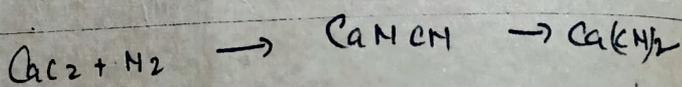
Cold air compressed at 10-35 atmospheres <sup>and it</sup> is passed through a fractionating column. On doing so we get two main fractions.

(1) The fraction one contains mainly  $N_2$  and Ne. An small amount of oxygen may be present.

(2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> fraction consists of oxygen mixed with Ar, Kr and Xe.

### Separation of He and Ne →

The fraction (1) is passed through a spiral column lying in a liquid nitrogen. Here most of the oxygen gas gets liquefied while the most volatile He and Ne escape. Any residual nitrogen passed with He and Ne can be removed by passing the gaseous mixture over  $CaCl_2$ .



Now the gaseous mixture contains He and Ne. The separation of He and Ne can be affected by cooling the mixture in liquid hydrogen where Neon gets solidified, while helium passed out still as a gas.

### Separation of Argon →

In order to separate Argon fraction (2) is fractionated by passing it around coils containing liquid nitrogen. Here oxygen with Kr and Xe condensed and Argon is passed as a gas.

### Separation of Kr & Xe →

Now the liquid oxygen contains Kr and Xe. The liquid is fractionated by cold air. Easy separation is possible because of the wide difference in boiling points.

# Periodic Discussion of He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe and Rn

## Similarities: →

- (1) All the elements are gaseous in nature at ordinary temperatures.
- (2) The outer shell configuration of all these elements are  $s^2p^6$  except Helium.
- (3) All these gases are odourless, colourless and tasteless.
- (4) All these gases are monoatomic. It is also supported by the value of  $C_p/C_v$  ratio.
- (5) All these gases are sparingly soluble in water.
- (6) The ionisation energy of these gases are very high.
- (7) The electro negativity and electron affinity of these gases are taken to be zero.
- (8) All these gases generally do not undergo for a chemical combination. However fluorides of Xenon are known.
- (9) M.P. and B.P. → M.P. and B.P. of gases are however very low.
- (10) All these gases are very rare.

## Periodic Trends in gases:

- (i) Density, M.P., ionisation energy, Heat of Vaporisation, Atomic radius, increases on moving from top to bottom.
  - (ii) All these gases are sparingly soluble in water.
  - (iii) Electronegativities of noble gases are taken to be zero.
  - (iv) Electron affinity of these gases are very small/nearly to zero.
  - (v) They are monoatomic.
- All these gases give characteristic spectra.

Uses of Noble gases → There are several  
of noble gases.

### Application of Helium →

- (i) Helium is used in filling air ships, weather balloons. Although it is three heavy gas.
- (ii) Helium-oxygen mixtures are used for respiration in deep sea divers instead of air because Helium is much less soluble in blood than nitrogen under high pressure.
- (iii) Helium has a number of scientific uses. It is used in producing very low temperature.
- (iv) Helium is used to provide an inert atmosphere in several metallurgical processes, i.e. in the preparation of reactive metals like titanium. In the preparation of Mg.

### Application of Neon →

- (i) It produces a beautiful orange glow when an electric current is passed through it. Under a low pressure 2 mm. This glow is visible even in moist air. For this reason, Neon lights are used as beacon lights for air pilots. Neon is now extensively used in sign advertising by coloured lights, and in fluorescent tubes.
- (ii) It has a remarkable property of carrying exceedingly high currents when a voltage of the order of 200 volts is applied. It is therefore used in safety devices for protecting electrical instruments such as voltmeters, relays, rectifiers & rectifiers.