Plate 4. The Visible Spectrum (3900 to 7600 angstrom units). A continuous spectrum is produced by incandescence—
emission by a hot body. Discrete emission spectra are produced by electrically excited gases under low pressure as in
flames, arcs, or gas discharge tubes. Gases absorb the same colors they emit as seen in the absorption spectrum. A
receding source of light has its spectral lines shifted toward the red; an approaching source of light has its spectral lines
shifted toward the violet. (Courtesy of Wabash Instrument Corporation, Wabash, IN.)