

Dorothy Hodgkin
Audio Guide transcript

In the following extract, from an interview recorded in 1984, she discusses her methods, and modestly gives credit to William Lawrence Bragg, who with his father Sir William Henry Bragg, introduced the technique of diffractonal analysis of organic crystals, which was such an indispensable research tool for her.

'I'm really an experimentalist, I, I, used to say 'I think with my hands', I like (*stutter*), I just like manipulation. I mean, I began to like it as a child, and this has continued all the time. I don't do very much well really, practically, no experimental work now but I get something of the same pleasure in going through the maps that result from the calculations that are being carried out. What I find difficult to know is why more people didn't come into this particular method of attacking problems at the same stage that we who did come into it, took it up, because it seems to me once W L Bragg had taken the first step that chemists and physicists should have realised much more than they did, that this was a tremendous opportunity. But for those who came in at the earlier stages, of course, there was so much gold lying about we couldn't help finding some of it.'