TECHNICAL METHODS

ANOTHER WAY OF APPLYING IMMERSION OIL

BY

J. STEVEN FAULDS

Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle

(RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION, MARCH 19, 1948)

In a recent short paper published by Pijper (1947) an improved method of applying immersion oil to slides is described. It seems odd that laboratories should still employ the archaic method of applying the oil from a bottle by a rod, when not even a garage would dream of employing this method. I have tried many shapes of bottles and types of rods—made from glass, cane, or spring steel—and all of them were equally messy, wasteful, irritating, and inefficient; if the bottle is too full a drop falls on the bench before the microscope is reached, and if the bottle is nearly empty insufficient oil adheres to the rod and two or three applications are necessary before the correct amount is obtained, and usually air bubbles are included. After reading Pijper's article I wondered if anyone had ever tried an oil-can.

The ideal oil-can for immersion oil must be flat-bottomed so as to stand upright on the bench, and must have a long, tapering stem and a narrow opening—all features being present in the original Singer oil-can.* An alternative oil-can called the Alton Valve Spout is nearly as good and is obtainable at any wholesale motor supplies distributors at a cost of

2s. 6d.; this has an additional advantage of a screw valve on the stem which can be closed by half a turn, and is useful when the oil-can is being carried in a microscope case, as it does not leak when lying on

its side; a valve is unnecessary, however, when the oil-can is standing on the bench. The amount of oil being applied is kept completely under control by pressing the bottom, and if this is done carefully there is no excess to run down the side of the stem and so soil the microscopist's fingers, the microscope, and the bench, wasting the immersion oil.

REFERENCE

Pijper, A. (1947). *J. Path. Bact.*, **59**, 486.

* Shortly available again from the Singer Sewing Machine Co., of Singer, Clydebank, Dumbartonshire, or agents, for 5d.