sensitivity of ribonucleic acid to acid hydrolysis (Kurnick, 1955) and the fact that ribonucleic acid is very easily removed from the cell by such treatment (Vendrely-Randavel, 1949).

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The "Lambeth" Technitray

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(RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION DECEMBER 9, 1958)

The biggest obstacle to the design of an all-purpose technician's carrying unit has always been that of the widely differing requirements of individual laboratories. An attempt to overcome it has been made by the construction of a basic tray with a drawer beneath and an extensive range of interchangeable inserts.

The final design is a compromise between the numerous ideas from this and other laboratories and the limiting factors of construction and costs.

Made throughout of thin, polished aluminium, the whole unit, with the standard set of components as illustrated (Fig. 1), measures 14×8×5 in. with the handle 10 in. high, and weighs under 4 lb. Being metal, it is easily cleaned and sterilized and a separate slip-on plastic cover allows it to be carried in inclement weather.

The drawer below, 2 in. deep, can be used for syringes or notes, or be fitted with further inserts. The tray, as shown, provides for 24 red or white blood cell bulb type pipettes (in two layers), 18 bijou bottles, 22 Kahn tubes, five "universal" containers,

FIG. 1.—The
Lambeth
"technitray."

three blood culture bottles, and a rack of 40 slides (or 80 back to back).

Additional inserts are made to take the standard $\frac{3}{8}$ in. test tubes, the $\frac{1}{8}$ in. tubes, a single row of bijou bottles, and for those no longer using the bulb pipette there are simple trough inserts to take the straight-sided 20 and 50 c.mm. pipettes.

Moreover, the firm producing the unit is prepared to manufacture, quite cheaply, additional inserts to special designs. In fact the most controversial rack, that for cotton-wool, spirit, and prickers, has already been made in four different patterns. A gap of any size can be created by simple trough inserts or by small screw clamps on the tray sides.

Designed primarily for the clinical laboratory worker, it may also be of use in other branches of the laboratory world.

The "technitray" has been manufactured for us by Messrs. Luckham Ltd., of 591, Kingston Road, Raynes Park, London, S.W.20.

The Protides of the Biological Fluids

The 7th colloquium will be held at St. John's Hospital, Bruges, on May 1-3, 1959.

1. Special Topics:

- (1) Nutritive value of protein and protein subnutrition
- (2) Biosynthesis of proteins
- (3) The role and metabolism of carnitine
- (4) Foetal protein

2. General Topics:

A. Biochemical:

- (1) Amino-acids
- (2) Polypeptides
- (3) Proteins: lipo-, glyco-, and heteroproteins. Proteins with specific activity in connexion with coagulation, immunity, hormonal activity

B. Medical:

Diagnosis in blood, urine, C.S.F.
Therapy and nutrition

C. Technical:

- (1) Chemical methods such as chromatography, polarography, electrophoresis
- (2) Microbiological methods

Round-table Subjects:

- (1) Technical advances in the analysis of proteins and related substances
- (2) Advances in the pathology of proteins, polypeptides, and amino-acids

For further information apply to Dr. Peters, Bruges.

Seventh Congress of the International Society of Haematology

The International Society of Haematology held its seventh congress at the Palace of Congresses in Rome from September 7 to 13, 1958, under the presidency of Professor GIOVANNI DI GUGLIELMO.

The main topics included immuno-haematology, the haemorrhagic diseases, leukaemia, the spleen and the reticulo-endothelial system, anaemia, isotopes in haematology, vitamin B₁₂, anticoagulants, haemophilia, blood and blood-forming cell cultures, haematological genetics, and paediatric haematology.

Immuno-haematology

Some of the modern views on immuno-haematology and on acquired or auto-immune haemolytic anaemia were outlined by J. H. JANDL (Boston, U.S.A.). These anaemias are characterized by the adsorption on to the red cell surface of substances of a protein nature diminishing the suspension stability of red cells. Antigen-antibody complexes adhere to the red cell envelope and cause direct agglutination by antiglobulin serum. Sensitized red cells are filtered by the spleen and agglutinated red cells by the liver. J. DAUSSET (Paris) reviewed antileucocytic auto-immunization, which can be allergic or spontaneous. Allergic antibodies are usually antinuclear, as in disseminated lupus erythematosus, and they can be estimated by complement-fixation and leuco-precipitation tests. W. J. HARRINGTON (St. Louis, U.S.A.), describing immune reactions of platelets, stated that the lack of suitable serological procedures hampered progress in this field. The platelet has a complex antigenic structure and is highly susceptible to auto-immune reactions. Antibodies against platelet antigens can be natural or immune, complete or incomplete, of auto- or iso-type, or agglutinins or lysins. Steroid therapy inhibits antibody production and splenectomy removes the site of antibody production. H. E. WILSON (Ohio, U.S.A.) used rabbit antisera against human leucocytes to test leucocytic agglutinins, particularly after blood transfusions. It was found that these leucocytic agglutinins are predominantly in the γ globulin range and are inhibited by the albumin fraction. R. T. SILVER (Maryland, U.S.A.) found that the overall antibody response of leukaemic patients against typhoid, mumps, influenza, diphtheria, and tetanus antigens was less than in normal controls.

Haemorrhagic Diseases

Christmas factor and Hagemann factor mutually correct each other, as observed by J. P. SOULIER (Paris, France). In haemophilia, said F. KOLLER (Zurich, Switzerland), in one and the same family only mild or only severe cases are found. J. B. GRAHAM (U.S.A.) found that mothers of patients with