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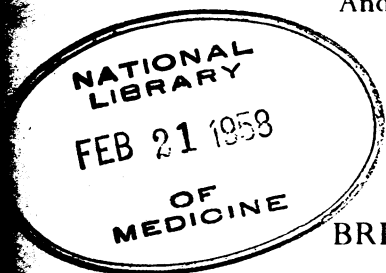
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VOLUME XI, 1958

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plates (Fig. 2). The material for chromatography is then applied in the normal way to the strip of exposed paper between the sectors.

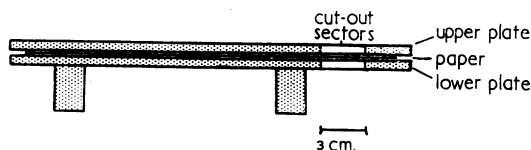


FIG. 2.—Profile diagram of apparatus, showing position of paper sandwiched between the plates.

I would like to thank Mr. W. Steele, F.I.M.L.T., for making the apparatus.

Seventh International Cancer Congress, London, 1958

Those planning to attend the 7th International Cancer Congress, which will take place at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from July 6 to 12, 1958, are reminded that enrolment forms must be received at the Congress Office (45 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2) by *January 1, 1958*, if a late fee is not to be incurred. Registration forms may be obtained from the Secretary-General at that address.

BOOK REVIEWS

Human Blood Coagulation and its Disorders, 2nd ed. By Rosemary Biggs and R. G. Macfarlane. (Pp. xxi + 476; 53 figures. 42s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1957.

The literature on blood coagulation is as voluminous as it is incomprehensible to the outsider. The authors say in their opening pages: "It is the modest purpose of this book to attempt to reduce this profusion to the smallest possible residue of useful and sober facts; to sort out the different names which really belong to the same thing, the different things which have had the same name, the things which probably do exist from the things which probably do not, and to present what is known about the probable ways in which the things which remain react together to produce a clot." From this we may deduce that they are masters of the English language and that they approach their subject in the true spirit of Oxford scholarship. Add to this that they lead one of the most active and fertile schools of study in this field; then one has the ingredients of this model of all that a medical textbook should be.

The first half of the book sets out in less than 200 pages our present knowledge of blood coagulation. Beginning with the thrombin-fibrinogen reaction the authors work backwards through prothrombin to the accelerators and thromboplastins that initiate the clotting reaction. Their approach is broadly historical, setting down an ever-growing pile of observations and hypotheses in the order of their discovery, and yet by superb marshalling and masterly selection leaving the reader with a coherent grasp of the substance as well as the complexities of their subject.

The next part of the book describes the clinical states that arise from, or produce, defective clotting. The authors' deep theoretical knowledge of these conditions is clearly supported by great practical experience of their management, although it is the principles rather than the details of treatment that they set out. This section includes a very clear and balanced account of the principles of anticoagulant therapy.

The following chapter, describing the systematic investigation of coagulation defects, has been much clarified and improved. A very useful glossary has been added to this edition (but it omits proconvertin). Finally there is a detailed and authoritative description of technical methods, an excellent index, and a list of some 1,400 references.

MARTIN HYNES.

A Practical Manual of Medical and Biological Staining Techniques, 2nd ed. By Edward Gurr. (Pp. xxv + 451. 42s.) London: Leonard Hill. 1956.

The good housewife can scarcely see a new cookery book without wishing to buy it, and a wise husband may even forestall her by a gracious gift if the title