fluid the remaining cells were found to be intermixed with the residual supernatant fluid, and were very difficult to recover in a useful concentration.

Summary

A container has been described for the centrifuging and handling of pathological material.

The advantages of the container described are:

(1) Prevention of widespread contamination when centrifuging; (2) prevention of contamination of the outside of the container when pouring; (3) prevention of contamination of the outside of the bottle by the fitting of a loose or faulty cap; (4) enabling a "button" to be formed when centrifuging in a "swing-out" type of centrifuge, thus saving the cost of conical centrifuge tubes.

We wish to thank Minerva (Cardiff), Ltd., for making the perspex containers.

REFERENCE

Whitwell, F., Taylor, P. J., and Oliver, A. J. (1957). *J. clin. Path.*, 10, 88.

BOOK REVIEW

Disorders of the Blood, 8th ed. Sir Lionel Whitby and C. J. C. Britton. (Pp. viii+878; 20 colour plates and 125 figs. £3 15s.). London: Churchill. 1957.

The eighth edition of "Whitby and Britton" finally appeared after the death of the senior author, and, although the galley proofs had been almost completed before he died, the final preparation of the eighth edition must have been an additional burden at an unfortunate time for Dr. Britton. The fact that there have been eight editions in 22 years not only shows that the popularity of the best-known English textbook of haematology is being maintained, but is also clear proof of the enormous growth of the subject during this time. Since the last edition in 1953 so much new work has appeared—and in fact so many new journals of haematology and allied subjects—that the authors have had to add considerably to the subject-matter. This has been done effectively, and no fault can be found with the up-to-date information available, but the authors rightly point out that the book is now no longer a simple textbook on haematology but is really now a reference book for haematologists and haematological laboratories.

The authors, however, have not been quite so successful with the elimination of the old and now obsolete material, and this needs ruthless pruning in future issues, because it leads to disconnected chapters beginning with introductory material bearing no relationship to modern views and more recent work. The photomicrographs are also of variable standards, and many of the older ones could be omitted without loss, e.g., Fig. 39, p. 240 (which is no less than shocking), shows a macropolycyte which is much better seen in the colour Plate XI two pages previously. Fig. 10, which purports to be leucoblastic hyperplasia in a bone marrow section, is also quite meaningless. Some of the new black-and-white photomicrographs, for example, Figs. 71 and 72 and Plate XIV, do demonstrate what can be achieved by enlarged black-and-white photographs aiming to show detail.

The book shows every sign of remaining the leader in its field and maintaining its well-deserved popularity. The references are more than adequate, and the price of 75s. compares most favourably with other publications of this size.

A. GORDON SIGNY.