

Gregersen test and "occultest," 80% agreement between the Gregersen test and "hematest," and 74% agreement between "hematest" and "occultest."

"Occultest" appears to be a better substitute for the Gregersen test than "hematest."

"Hematest" and "occultest" reagent tablets were kindly supplied by Ames Company (London) Ltd.

I am grateful to Dr. G. I. C. Ingram and others for their help and encouragement.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**A Primer in Medical Technology.** By Paul M. Kraemer. (Pp. viii + 338; 33 figures. 58s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1958.

This book contains 20 introductory lectures for student technicians. Four are devoted to the kidney and urine analysis, eight to haematology, seven to blood chemistry, and one to the cerebrospinal fluid.

The physiology of the kidney and liver, the pathogenesis of the anaemias, and blood group serology are discussed in an elementary manner; and there is a praiseworthy attempt to explain the intricacies of fluid balance. The coverage, however, is nowhere sufficiently complete to provide an examination text for British students, and some of the procedures suggested would not be acceptable here. Thus, for venepuncture, "the syringes . . . need not be sterile since nothing is injected, only withdrawn" (p. 73).

Much of the information relating to normal and abnormal function would be valuable to any student, but it is conveyed in far too many words. The style is often that of the popular lecture.

The limited scope and high price result in a text not likely to find favour with British students.

A. J. McCALL.

**Haematological Technique**, 2nd ed. By E. M. Darmady and S. G. T. Davenport. (Pp. viii + 244; 23 figures. 24s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1958.

That a second edition has been called for is a measure of the usefulness and demand for this handbook. The authors have obviously taken to heart the criticisms levelled at the first edition; extra sections have been added, and the whole presentation has been greatly improved. However, it is still not quite clear to whom the book is finally addressed; laboratory technicians will find two-thirds of it much to their liking, but such chapters, for example, as those on blood grouping, do not sufficiently fill in the background for them and at the same time are not nearly comprehensive enough for medical students. As a third edition will undoubtedly be needed the authors might well address that, and subsequent editions, wholly to laboratory technicians and at that moment, too, they might look again at the illustrations. The book is well produced and is of a useful size to be propped up on the bench.

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