

The gels were equilibrated with three changes of excess tris-E.D.T.A. buffer for 24 hours before using.

The samples were inserted in both types of gel on slips of Whatman 3 mm. filter paper. The runs were carried out at a potential gradient of 8 volts per cm. at room temperature (approximately 16°C.) for six hours in an apparatus based on that of Smithies (1955). The top and bottom 1.5 mm. of the starch gels were sliced off and the centre section clarified in anhydrous glycerol and scanned between two microscope slides in a recording microdensitometer (Curtain, 1960). A 540 m μ second order Bausch and Lomb interference filter was placed in the light source of the low-powered ($\times 80$) optical system used. The clear acrylamide gels were scanned uncut.

The haemoglobin samples used in these experiments were supplied by Dr. B. Ryan, General Hospital, Port Moresby, and Dr. K. Dowell, Eroro Mission Station, Territory of Papua and New Guinea. I wish to acknowledge the technical assistance of Miss Joan Harris.

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A portable water-bath for use when investigating the coagulation mechanism

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The recent production by Luckham Ltd. of a portable water-bath has overcome the previous difficulty of controlling anticoagulant therapy at the bedside. The bath has been used at St. Helier Hospital for some time

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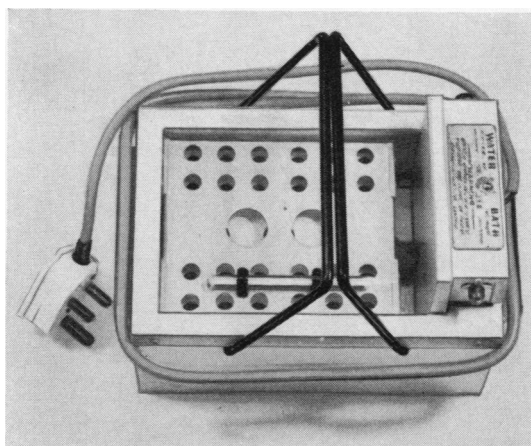


FIG. 1. Apparatus without lid and handles in carrying position.

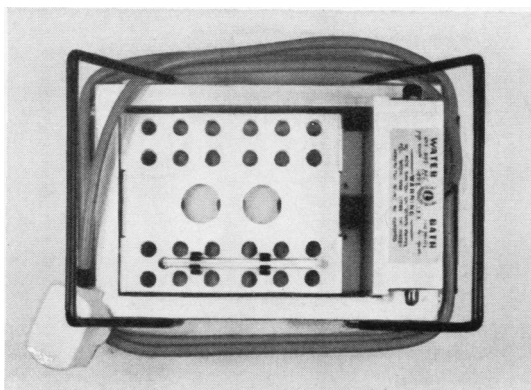


FIG. 2. Apparatus without lid and handles retracted ready for use.

now in routine investigations with admirable results. It is readily portable, rapid in reaching the required temperature, and accurate in temperature control. The water takes only 17 minutes to heat up from room (18.5°C.) temperature to 37°C. The use of the lid makes very little difference to the heat loss. Carrying the water-

bath from the laboratory to the ward, a journey of about three minutes, results in a loss of temperature of 1°C. The well-protected thermostat can easily be reached and maintenance is required. Spare thermostats to allow the bath to be used for temperatures other than 37°C. are obtainable from the makers.

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