preparations can be made by drying the stained section in air and then mounting in Fluormount (E. Gurr, Ltd.), though this treatment sometimes causes a reduction in fluorescence.

COMMENT

The freeze-dried sections are equally suitable for identifying the autoantibody against thyroglobulin (Figure 1), and the CA2 antibody first described by Balfour et al. (1961) for which immunofluorescence provides the only known method of detection. The technique is also sufficiently reliable for use in reverse, so to speak, for studying the reactions of thyroid biopsy material with autoimmune sera of known specificity.

Because of the excellent preservation of stored sections, there is clearly no necessity for all laboratories interested in the detection of autoantibodies to thyroid to carry out the freeze-drying, embedding, and microtomy themselves. It should be possible to have embedded blocks or mounted sections prepared commercially for routine laboratory use.

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REFERENCES


CORRECTIONS

We regret that in the paper by J. A. Campbell and A. H. Cruickshank on 'Cystadenoma and cystadenocarcinoma of the pancreas' (J. clin. Path., 15, 432-436) the legends to figures 8 and 9 on page 436 have been transposed.

Dr. Small regrets that there was an error in the third modification of the technique he describes in his paper on 'The determination of 3 methoxy-4 hydroxy mandelic acid in urine' (J. clin. Path., 15, 388). It should read as follows:—

3 Extraction into aqueous solution is brought about by shaking with 25, 15, and 10 ml. portions of a phosphate buffer, pH 7-6 (50 ml. 0-2 M KH₂PO₄ + 42-74 ml. 0-2 M NaOH, diluted to 200 ml. with distilled water). Dilute this solution 1 : 20 with distilled water for use.