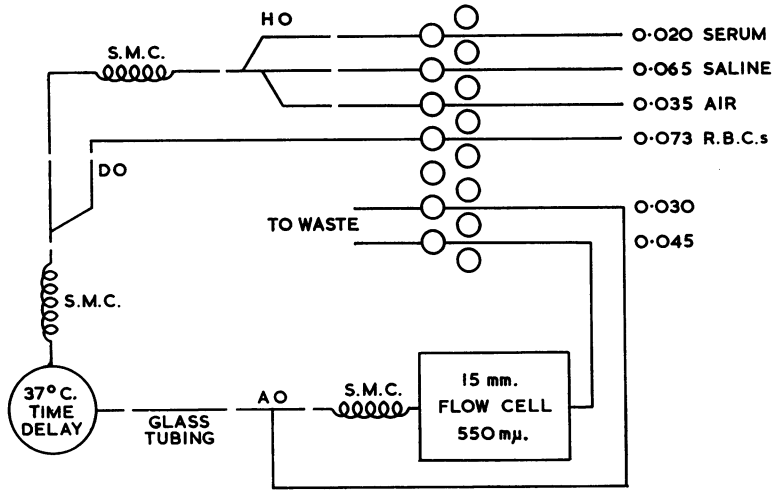

FIG. 1. *Flow diagram.*

sheep serum as for the manual test with a final concentration of 1%. The cells are kept in suspension by means of a magnetic stirrer. Serum samples are diluted with 0·85% sodium chloride, mixed in a single mixing coil and sensitized sheep erythrocytes added, mixing again in a single coil, then into a 40-foot glass coil at 37°C.

From the delay coil, the agglutinates settle in a straight horizontal piece of glass tubing. Removal of agglutinates is accomplished by a standard T piece. The remaining cell suspensions are re-mixed in a single glass mixing coil and passed into a 15 mm. flow cell in an N colorimeter using 550 mμ filters.

Initially a base line of 98% transmission is set with all lines pumping saline. Sheep cells are pumped through the appropriate line until a 5% transmission is obtained. Any sample giving a rise of more than 2% transmission from this base line is regarded as a potential positive and titrated manually. To facilitate the identification of samples a known positive is placed at the beginning of the batch and at every tenth cup as a marker.

Some 500 tests have so far been performed and the results compared with those from the manual technique. No titre below 1/16 as shown by the manual method has been recorded by the automated method nor has any automated titre of less than 1/16 been subsequently found to be greater after manual titration.

This screening technique represents a saving in manual titration of approximately 60% of samples.

REFERENCES

Rose, H. M., Ragan, C., Pearce, E., and Lipman, M. O. (1948). *Proc. Soc. exp. Biol. (N.Y.)*, **85**, 4.

CORRECTION

This is figure 2 of the paper by V. P. Pugh and R. W. T. Gaze, entitled 'The Reiter protein complement-fixation test using the AutoAnalyzer' (*J. Clin. Path.*, **19**, 595), which was wrongly printed.