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The May 1971 Issue

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We are very grateful to Dr E. B. Hendry and his staff for the TIBC measurements and to Dr H. Singh for supplying some of the rabbit antihuman IgG serum. The mestranol and ethynodiol diacetate preparations were generously gifted by G. D. Searle & Co Ltd, High Wycombe.

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fold higher by complement fixation than by crossover electrophoresis. To minimize the prozone in complement-fixation tests this antiserum was used in diagnostic tests for HAA at eight times titre, ie, 1 in 64; for crossover electrophoresis 1 in 16 was used. Of 107 sera from patients with hepatitis tested by both techniques, 36 were positive for HAA; all 36 were positive by complement fixation but only 31 by crossover electrophoresis. The 31 positive by both techniques had HAA titres by complement fixation ranging from 1 in 32 to 1 in 512; the five positive only by complement fixation had titres from 1 in 4 to 1 in 16. Further, we found that the prozone in complement-fixation tests was an advantage rather than a disadvantage since an approximate quantitative assessment of HAA could be obtained by screen tests on two separate dilutions (1 in 4 and 1 in 32) of each test serum. Thus, all sera showing a prozone for HAA in these two dilutions subsequently gave straight line titres ≥ 1 in 64 whereas those not showing a prozone had titres < 1 in 64.

We also found that complement-fixation tests had another advantage over crossover electrophoresis in that serum dilutions of 1 in 4 could be heated at 60°C for 16 hours or 85°C for one hour to destroy infectivity; this produced no appreciable change in complement-fixation titres of HAA but caused loss of precipitin in crossover electrophoresis tests.

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Epoxy Resin Sections

Some difficulty in detaching Araldite blocks from glass slides may be experienced by some workers when using the method of Burns (1970). This is avoided by using glass slides as supplied by the manufacturers, ie, neither re-cleaned nor polished. Alternatively, cleaned slides

may be coated with a thin layer of evaporated carbon (Barnicot and Huxley, 1963).

J. BURNS,
*The Gibson Laboratories,
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Oxford.*

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analysis. The prize will be given during the 1972 conference between 25 and 28 April. Papers, either published or accepted for publication between 1 January 1970 and 30 September 1971 may be sent in triplicate before 15 November 1971 to Dr Rosmarie Vogel, Secretary of the 'Preis Biochemische Analytik', D-8000 Munich 15, Nussbaumstr. 20, Germany.

Data on Interference of Drugs with Biochemical Reactions

An information centre which collects data on the interference of drugs with biochemical reactions has been set up. The centre would be pleased to receive information about such reactions which come to light. They would also be prepared to provide advice and information on these matters. All communications should be addressed to Dr B. G. Blijenberg, Dijkzigt Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Notices

Overseas Tutors' Course in Medical Laboratory Technology

The second of the pioneer series of courses will be held at the Royal Free Hospital and Bromley College of Technology in 1971. The course will offer seven months' training to experienced and qualified laboratory technologists from a number of overseas countries and give them the necessary qualification that they may return to their own countries and set up teaching establishments and examination systems for medical laboratory subjects. Their own technical knowledge will be brought up to date, and they will learn management, teaching technology, and the use of many kinds of visual aids.

This year's tutors, who are from Jordan, Mauritius, Nigeria, Uganda, Malaya, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, West Indies, Sudan and Malta, are mainly supported by the Department of Overseas Administration.

Further information can be obtained from the Course Director, Pathology Unit, The Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1Y 8UE.

Prize for Biochemical Analysis

The prize of DM 10,000 is given by Boehringer Mannheim and is awarded every two years at the conference 'Biochemische Analytik' in Munich for outstanding work in the field of biochemical