Technical methods

Simple slide-rule conversion between hydrogen ion concentration and pH values

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On a slide-rule that has both a logarithm (L) scale and a reciprocal (CI) scale it is possible with minimal arithmetic to convert in a single step between

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Fig  Portion of slide rule showing numerical connexion between \([H^+]\) on CI scale, and decimal figures (mantissa) of pH on L scale.

Letter to the Editor

Technique for the NBT Test

We were interested to read the technique of Freeman and King (1972). We have been using a method which offers the advantages of being quicker, using materials readily available in a haematology laboratory, and allowing accurate cell identification (figure).

Into a plastic tube are put 2 drops of a saturated solution of NBT in 0·9% saline, 2 drops of 0·15M phosphate-buffered saline (pH 7·2), and 2 drops of whole blood to be tested. An expected 'high' control and an expected 'normal' control are treated in the same way. After gentle mixing the tubes are incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes and then at room temper-

Fig.  Ease of distinction between granulocytes and other cells. One granulocyte contains formozan. The appearance is much clearer in the original coloured preparation.