

is snipped off and immediately inserted into a test-tube containing a saturated solution of sodium citrate and then dried by gentle wiping with clean gauze. The blood drips freely from the wound and no clotting occurs in the pipettes or on the slides. If a number of counts or blood films are to be made from the same animal the end of the tail may from time to time be wiped with gauze very slightly moistened with the sodium citrate solution.

This method is time-saving and satisfactory in every way. The only necessary caution is not to have the site of puncture or wound too wet, as an excess of sodium citrate will cause the cells to crenate and might also interfere with the vital staining. This, however, is easily avoided by leaving the skin of the animal only slightly moist.

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### A CONVENIENT METHOD OF SECURING BLOOD FOR ANALYSIS

MICRO methods for blood analysis are rapidly replacing those requiring larger samples. The advantages of finger prick over venepuncture are too apparent to require comment. However, it has been difficult to secure enough blood by sticking the finger even for analyses which require but 0.2 cc. A drop large enough falls off the finger before it can be taken up with a pipette. If a number of smaller drops are used, it is difficult to avoid the introduction of air bubbles.

These difficulties may be obviated by pricking the finger with a lancet and letting the blood drop onto a paraffin block with a depression on it. Slight pressure proximal to the wound or a rubber band placed around the finger will produce free flow and as much as 1 cc may readily be obtained. Then the blood can be drawn up into the pipette. The blood will not clot on the paraffin in the short time necessary for collection.

The paraffin blocks are very easily prepared. A muffin tin, consisting of six depressions in a tin plate, can be purchased in any hardware store for a few cents. The depressions are filled with melted paraffin and then set aside to cool. The contraction of the paraffin in cooling will produce a smooth depressed surface that serves admirably for the collection of blood. The blocks are easily removed from the tin after solidification by chilling under running water.

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### AN INEXPENSIVE VIEWER FOR MANUSCRIPT FILM

USERS of *Bibbiofilm* and others interested in reading printed matter copied on 35 mm motion picture film

may find useful a simple film-reading device on sale for twenty cents at the F. W. Woolworth stores.

The instrument is intended for use with stereoscopic films prepared by its manufacturer, Novelview, Inc. It is simply designed and sturdily built of metal and neatly molded bakelite. Light enters and is diffused through translucent celluloid screens (see diagram) each the size of a standard motion-picture frame. The

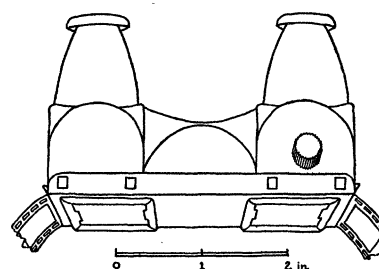


FIG. 1.

film passes through a metal track and is advanced by turning a knurled knob conveniently located. The track maintains tension at the edges of the film, holding it firmly in place and preventing it from being scratched.

The twin eyepieces are equipped with lenses of fixed focal length which magnify sufficiently to permit reading of copies of typewritten manuscript or of average size print. Considering the instrument's low cost, the lenses have remarkably flat fields and give good rectilinear rendition. The metal eyepieces are removable and more highly corrected lenses could be substituted if desired. Because of its binocular construction the instrument is easy to handle. One field may be blacked out with India ink, cardboard or Scotch tape, thus making it easier to keep both eyes open.

Although the viewer could not be used for long periods without eyestrain, it serves adequately for occasional use. The small size, light weight, extremely low cost and wide availability of the Novelview make it worth the attention of any scientist who wishes an instrument of this type for occasional use.

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