In a small dish or a wide shell vial, pour a layer of chloroform on the bottom and then a layer of absolute alcohol with eosin on top of it. Next, place the embryos or pieces of tissue in the alcohol and allow them to sink slowly into the chloroform; leave for 2 to 6 hours or until they have sunk to the bottom.

(9b) For large embryos and for tissues which become tough or brittle easily, clear in synthetic oil of wintergreen by the sinking method. Then replace the oil with chloroform in similar manner.

(10) Chloroform saturated with paraffin overnight.

(11) Melted paraffin, 2 or 3 baths, 1 to 3 hours in each bath. Embed in the usual way.

(12) Cut sections, attach them to slides by the albumen-water method, and dry for 24 hours or longer.

(13) Put sections in xylol to remove paraffin; bring them to absolute alcohol to differentiate the eosin, then back to xylol; mount in balsam.

Sections made from materials thus prepared are stained sharply and uniformly from center to periphery, and show good color differentiation similar to those stained on the slide. Among the tissues tried were pieces of Nereis, clam gill, grasshopper testis, Amphioxus, salamander liver and stomach, mammalian skin, pancreas, cartilage and growing bone, a 10 mm pig embryo and portions of a young shark having a diameter of 14 mm. Equally good results were obtained for all of them. In the grasshopper testis, the metaphase chromosomes and the spindle structure were nicely brought out but, as with the other alum-hematoxylins, except iron hematoxylin, the centrosomes were only faintly stained.

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STERILIZATION OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS BY DI-ETHYLENE GLYCOL

STERILIZATION of surgical instruments by boiling water involves disadvantages: the boiling point of water is relatively low; mineral deposits or stains may occur, especially if the water is hard; and there is a tendency for boiling water to dull the edges of cutting tools. Di-ethylene glycol is relatively free from these objections. While it may fume on heating, this is negligible when small sterilizers are used. If an electric sterilizer is set at "low," the temperature of the liquid rises to about 150° C. As its boiling point of 250° C. is approached, it fumes more markedly, but adequate sterilization should be obtained at temperatures where fuming is not apparent. On standing it evaporates very slowly so that only small amounts at infrequent intervals need be added to the sterilizer to keep it full. Di-ethylene glycol leaves neither stains nor deposits on the instruments. It has no appreciable dulling effect on cutting edges. Since it is completely soluble in water, di-ethylene glycol residues may be promptly removed by dipping the heat-treated instruments in sterile water before use. Finally di-ethylene glycol is relatively inexpensive and readily available from chemical supply houses. These observations are based on two years' exhaustive trial with the compound in comparison with many others recommended for sterilization of dental instruments.

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"STUCK" SYRINGES

A SIMPLE and effective method of separating a "stuck" syringe is to place it in a container of concentrated nitric acid completely covering the syringe. Leave it immersed for a variable length of time, a week or two usually being sufficient.

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