

cleaner motor provided sufficient suction for our purposes. Inlet tubes were specially constructed with one-half inch bore and with the submerged end a perforated bulb of the bubbler type to prevent clogging or unequal pressure from the glass beads.

Calibration of the air flow was determined by the displacement of air by water in a two-liter flask and checking these rates with differences in the manometer levels. Best results were obtained at relatively low rates indicated by the gentle bubbling of air through the broth and beads. Optimum speeds were between 3.6 and 9.0 liters per minute. Too strong suction tended to cause splashing and sucking of broth through the outlet of the flask. As in bacterial analysis of milk, the number of colonies found in plates poured with one and two cc samples of broth are multiplied to the number which should be present in the entire 50 cc. Immediate pour plates of the broth are not necessary since significant bacterial growth does not take place for an hour or more even at room temperature. However, if immediate pouring is not practical it is advisable to store the flasks in the refrigerator. Colony counts of samples ranging from 0.5 cc to 3 cc reveal a straight line relationship of size of sample to number of colonies.

Tests on the efficiency of this machine by attaching it in series to the Wells Air Centrifuge, and tests where two of the bubbler pumps are set up so that the exhaust of one is attached to the inlet of the other reveal that bacteria of air samples are more thoroughly absorbed by the bubbler pump than the air centrifuge. Table 1 shows the magnitude of this difference in

TABLE 1  
RELATIVE EFFICIENCY OF THE BUBBLER PUMP AND AIR CENTRIFUGE AS SHOWN BY AIR SAMPLES FROM THE APPARATUS CONNECTED IN SERIES

Apparatus	Unit	Colony counts		Estimated colonies av. in 50 ml.	Count in 10 cu. ft.
		1 ml.	2 ml.		
(A) Two bubbler pump units in series.	Pump No. 1	5	8	225	990
	Pump No. 2	0	0	0	0
(B) Centrifuge in series to the outlet of the bubbler pump.	Pump	6	10	262	1,190
	Centrifuge	-	-	-	1

The above experiments were conducted in the same room on the same day.

colony counts when the machines are arranged in series. When separate runs are made in the same room by the two machines colony counts indicated by the bubbler pump are usually several times that found in an equivalent sample of air from the centrifuge. Table 2 shows sample protocols of such runs.

Preliminary experiments indicate that accurate evaluations of the bacterial content of air under the

TABLE 2  
COMPARISON OF BACTERIAL COLONY COUNTS IN AIR SAMPLES: PARALLEL RUNS IN AIR CENTRIFUGE AND BUBBLER PUMP

Room	Color counts		Av. colony count for 50 ml. broth	Estimated colonies: 10 cu. ft. bubbler pump	Air centrifuge: Colonies counted in 10 cu. ft.
	1 ml.	2 ml.			
Ward F ...	3	7	162	710	86
Ward E ...	6	14	318	1400	108
Ward H ...	3	5	137	610	58
Room 63 ..	3	5	137	610	170

natural conditions of a hospital ward are possible with these bubbler pumps. Experiments are in progress involving the correlation of dust and bacteria counts and the effect of ultra-violet rays on the bacteria of irradiated rooms.

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#### COIN MATS FOR THE MICROSCOPIST

THE scarcity of supplies and the increase in cost of cover glasses suggest greater care in preserving those already on hand. It has been learned that much breakage can be avoided by the use of a rubber coin mat. Cover glasses and slides placed on these mats are easily grasped by the fingers without the necessity of pushing them to the edge of the table, where they frequently break from pressure in trying to pick them up, or fall to the floor. There is also a great saving on the finger nails and no risk of undernail splinters from rough tables. As a matter of fact, finger nails, long or short, cease to be a factor in handling the cover glasses. Ease in mounting specimens is sufficient reason for using the coin mat and the saving in breakage will soon amortize any expense involved.

The coin mats may be obtained from the Sun Rubber Company, Barberton, Ohio. Used whole, halved or quartered, they furnish a simple convenience to frustrate an ever-present source of impatience.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED

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