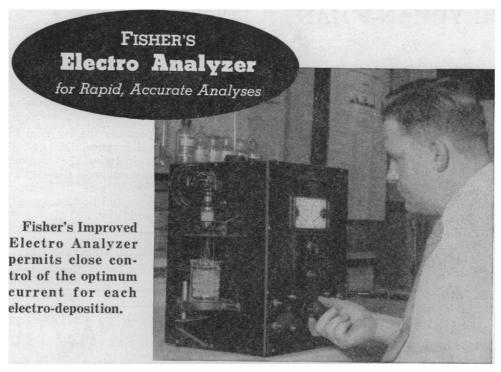
# SCIENCE

NEW SERIES Vol. 94, No. 2448

Friday, November 28, 1941

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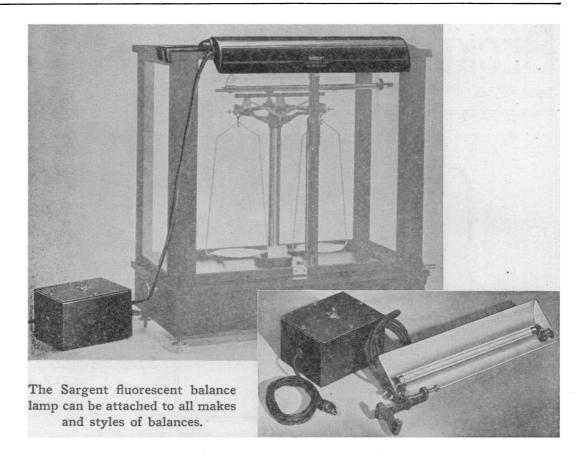


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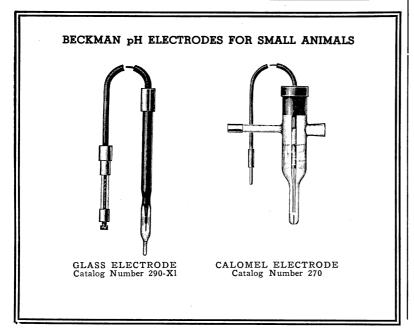
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# BECKMAN pH News

FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF GLASS ELECTRODE PH EQUIPMENT



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When making pH investigations on small animals such as rats, guinea pigs, etc., research workers are finding the Beckman Vaginal electrode of great help.

This electrode assembly consists of two units—the Glass Electrode and its companion reference cell, the Calomel Electrode. The Glass Electrode is completely sealed and internally shielded against electrical interference. The electrode has a total length of 12 cm. and has a tip at the lower end 1 cm. long and 3 mm, in diameter. This tip is inserted into the vagina of the animal in order to make pH readings on that passage.

This Glass Electrode is used in combination with a Fiber Type Calomel Electrode for a reference cell. This electrode is  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long with a 5 mm. tip and has a porous fiber sealed through the glass wall by means of which electrical connection is made with the test surface. In making readings, it is only necessary to touch the Calomel Electrode to any exposed skin area adjacent to the vagina in order to make accurate pH determinations with the assembly.

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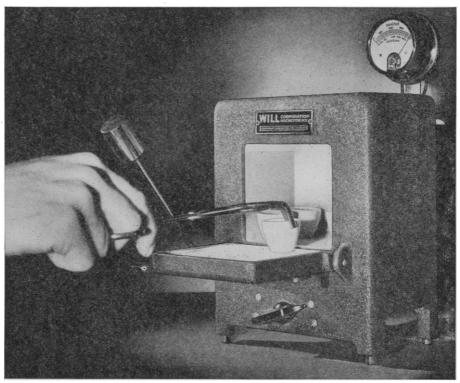
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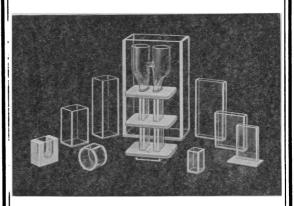
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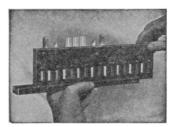
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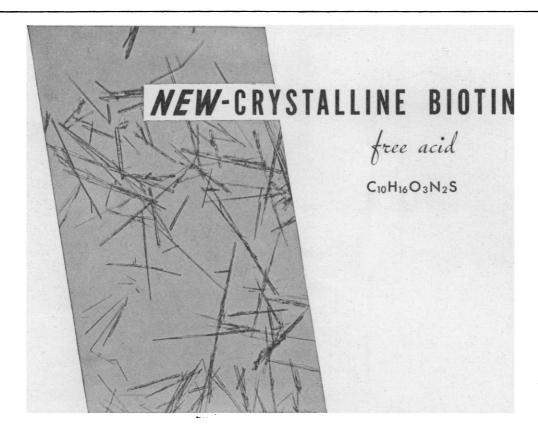
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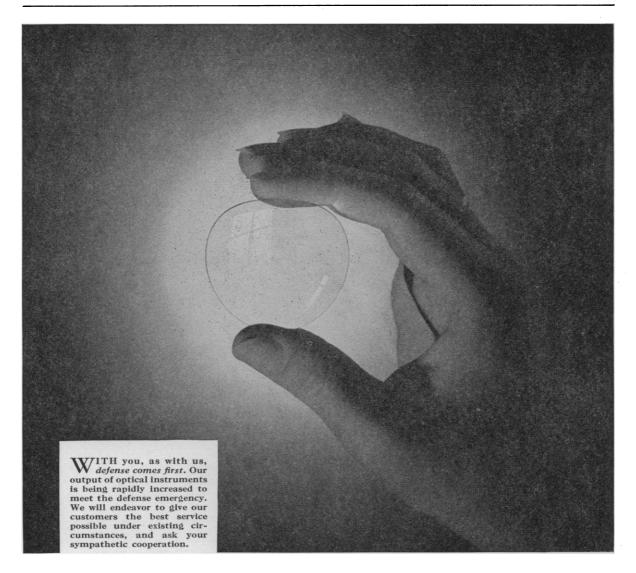
Because of the widespread interest in biotin and the limited supply of crystalline material immediately available, orders for biotin (free acid) will be restricted to 3 ampuls.

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# SCIENCE

Vol. 94 Friday, November 28, 1941

The American Association for the Advancement of Science:  The Dallas Meeting: Edited by Dr. F. R. Moulton 4 Social Implications of Vitamins: Dr. Robert R.  WILLIAMS 5  Obituary: James Troop: Professor J. J. Davis. Norman Jackson Harrar: Dr. Frank E. E. Germann. Recent Deaths 5 Scientific Events: The Thailand Department of Science; Grants Made to the University of Illinois; Fellowships in Chemistry of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company; The Committee on the Professional Training of Chemists; The International Crop Improvement Association; Meetings on Tropical Medicine at St. Louis 5 Scientific Notes and News 5 Discussion: Unrecognized Arid Hawaiian Soil Erosion: Dr. Frank E. Egler. Concerning Gastropods Adhering to Foreign Objects: Dr. J. Bequaert and W. J. Clench, Anopheles Maculipennis Meigen and	MACKENZIE and Professor E. V. McCollum.  Effect of Ultraviolet Light on Polycyclic Hydrocarbons in Sterol Surface Film Systems: Dr. W.  W. Davis, Dr. M. E. Krahll and Dr. G. H. A.  Clowes. A Phytopathogenic Bacterium Fatal to Laboratory Animals: Dr. R. P. Elrod and Dr.  Armin C. Braun
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Quotations: Problems Confronting Medical Investigators	ing membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary in the Smithsonian

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DALLAS MEETING

Edited by Dr. F. R. MOULTON

PERMANENT SECRETARY

From next December 29 to January 3, inclusive, the association will hold its one hundred tenth meeting in Dallas, Texas. The Southwestern Division of the association and the Texas Academy of Science are joining with the association to make the meeting a notable scientific event in the Southwest. Fourteen of the fifteen sections of the association and two subsections will present a program, a number of which will be comprehensive symposia on subjects of current scientific importance. At these sessions the chairman of the respective sections will deliver their addresses as retiring vice-presidents of the association. In addi-

tion, thirty affiliated and associated societies and several local Texas societies, besides numerous educational institutions, are joining in the numerous programs that have been organized.

No. 2448

Perhaps the prospects for the meeting in Dallas can be made clear most easily by comparing a few statistics pertaining to it with those of other meetings held in southern cities. Five previous annual meetings have been held in the South: New Orleans, 1905–06; Atlanta, 1913–14; Nashville, 1927; New Orleans, 1931–32; Richmond, 1938–39. In the following table the number of papers that will be presented at Dallas is

As a practical example, in the graphic calculation of the results of routine biological assays of the all-ornone type it was found convenient to plot all such results on a graph in which each x or log dose unit was 50 cm long and each y or probit unit was 5 cm long. Therefore, R = 50/5 = 10. For making the scale a simple table like that below was constructed. In the

TABLE I

Slope or b	Slope/ $R$ or $\tan \theta$	$\theta$ in degrees
1	0.1	5.72
2	0.2	11.32
હ	0.3	16.70
•	•	•
	i i	
60	6.0	80.53

first column a series of consecutive slope figures, such as one may expect to encounter, was written down. The second column, giving the values of the tan 8 was calculated by substituting the corresponding slope figures in the equation  $\tan \theta = b/10$ . The values of  $\theta$ were then obtained from a table of tangents, and for convenience the minutes were converted into decimal fractions of degrees by dividing by 60. To mark off the actual divisions on the scale, select a point as the angle zero on a piece of polar coordinate paper which is divided into 360 degrees, and mark off each slope value at the proper number of degrees from zero, using the relationship between the slope values and the corresponding angles as given in the first and last columns of the table. For example, at a distance of 16.7° from zero make a mark corresponding to the slope 3.

This particular scale may be used with any assay providing that on the graph, each x unit (log dose) is 10 times as long as each y unit (cc, gm, probit, etc.). For any graph in which R is not 10 the size of the scale divisions will be different.

To use this protractor-like scale, place the center of the circle of which the slope scale is an arc at the intersection of the dose-response curve with the x axis and let the zero of the scale also fall on the x axis. The slope may be read directly from the slope scale at the point at which it is intersected by the straightline dose-response curve. In the figure, the scale shows that the slope is 10.

A complete graphic treatment of the Bliss<sup>1</sup> method for handling the all-or-none type of data will be published in the near future.

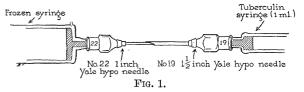
EDWIN J. DEBEER

THE EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES, BURROUGHS WELLCOME & Co., U. S. A., TUCKAHOE, N. Y.

### MODIFIED HYDRAULIC METHOD FOR REMOVING PLUNGERS FROM "FROZEN" SYRINGES

A METHOD similar to the one described recently by McCoord in Science, volume 94, page 170, has been used by us for several years to remove the plungers of "frozen" syringes. An additional simple device which we use makes the method more convenient and foolproof. We realize that this modification may already be familiar to some, but feel that since the problem is such a common one in clinical laboratories, any additional improvement is worthy of publicity.

The drawing (Fig. 1) illustrates the method. The



device referred to consists of a number 22 (one inch) Yale hypodermic needle telescoped into a number 19 (one and one-half inch) Yale hypodermic needle so as to make a tight connection. Other tight-fitting combinations of needles may be used and, if desired, the connection may be soldered, although we have not found this necessary. By attaching one end of the device to the "frozen" syringe and the other to a tuberculin syringe filled with water, enough hydraulic pressure can be developed by exerting force on the plunger of the tuberculin syringe to free the barrel. The desired result is almost always attained. The device can be made in a few minutes and can be kept on hand for future use which, in our experience, is frequent.

MILAN NOVAK

COLLEGES OF MEDICINE,
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### **BOOKS RECEIVED**

Holzinger, Karl J. and Harry H. Harman. Factor Analysis; A Synthesis of Factorial Methods. Pp. xii + 417. University of Chicago Press. \$5.00.

ROY, SHARAT K. The Upper Ordovician Fauna of Frobisher Bay, Baffin Land. Pp. 212. Illustrated. Field Museum of Natural History. \$3.50.

SOROKIN, PITIRIM A. The Crisis of Our Age. Pp. 338 Illustrated. Dutton. \$3.50.

 WHITING, JOHN W. M. Becoming a Kwoma; Teaching and Learning in a New Guinea Tribe. Pp. xix + 226.
 Yale University Press. \$2.75.

Yoe, John H. and Landon A. Sarver. Organic Analytical Reagents. Pp. ix + 339. Wiley. \$4.00.

Zechmeister, L. and L. Cholnoky. *Principles and Practice of Chromatography*. Pp. xviii+362. 74 figures. Wiley. \$5.00.

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- 5. A list of stimulating questions follows each chapter. Largely nonmathematical, they are designed to summarize the chapter, to relate material of the chapter to preceding chapters, to provide sufficient drill to fix new ideas in the student's mind, and to give practice in recognizing scientific evidence and drawing conclusions from it.

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